

Several People Are Typing

a novel

Calvin
Kasulke



several people are typing

a novel

calvin kasulke



doubleday | new york

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Cover design by Michael J. Windsor

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Kasulke, Calvin, author.

Title: Several people are typing : a novel / Calvin Kasulke.

Description: New York : Doubleday, 2021.

Identifiers: LCCN 2020052276 (print) | LCCN 2020052277 (ebook) | ISBN 9780385547222 (hardcover) | ISBN 9780385547253 (ebook)

Classification: LCC PS3611.A7875 S48 2021 (print) | LCC PS3611.A7875 (ebook) | DDC 813/.6—dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020052276>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020052277>

Ebook ISBN 9780385547253

ep_prh_5.7.1_c0_r0

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To Mo and Luca, for everything

gerald, slackbot

gerald

help

slackbot

I can help by answering simple questions about how Slack works. I'm just a bot, though! If you need more help, try our Help Center for loads of useful information about Slack.

gerald

uninstall

slackbot

I searched for that on our Help Center. Perhaps these articles will help:

- Change your time zone
- Manage your password

gerald

please help me

slackbot

I can help by answering simple questions about how Slack works. I'm just a bot, though!

gerald

uninstall self

slackbot

I'm sorry, I don't understand! Sometimes I have an easier time with a few simple keywords. Or you can head to our wonderful Help Center for more assistance!

#nyc-office

kerolyn

so this spreadsheet

gerald

yes?

kerolyn

was it like, special?

gerald

not particularly

tripp

what were the contents of the spreadsheet

gerald

does that really matter

kerolyn

it must
clearly

Nikki

Clearly it must, for all this to have happened.

gerald

coats

tripp

no comprende

Nikki

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coats>

Coats

Coats may refer to [read more]

tripp

thank you, Nikki

unnecessary

but thank you

Nikki

You're welcome.

kerolyn

explain the coats, @gerald

gerald

it was a spreadsheet of different winter coats that I was considering purchasing

broken down by price, probable warmth, and other deciding factors

tripp

"other deciding factors"

such as

gerald

Predicted Attractiveness In Coat was a factor

tripp

lol
huge

Nikki

You built out a spreadsheet for that?

kerolyn

no, I get that

gerald

it's a big decision, financially

kerolyn

it's a big purchase

exactly

jinx

gerald

is that what you think it is, maybe? a jinx

kerolyn

that's not what I meant

gerald

maybe you're right though

Nikki, pradeep, Louis C

Nikki

Why do we have these calls?

What is he even saying?

pradeep

I have no idea
I tune out whenever this dude talks
what's his role over there again?

Louis C

He's their comms director.

pradeep

if they have a comms director then why did they hire us?

Louis C

Because he isn't a very good comms director.

Nikki

You're both missing my point.

I mean, *what is he actually saying*?

It sounds like he's taking this call from the bottom of a well.

pradeep

if he's been stuck in a well for a while, that might explain his grasp
of like
the entire internet

Louis C

I believe their offices are located in the greater Tampa area.

Nikki

Is this what Tampa sounds like?

pradeep

please tell me this dude didn't just say "myspace"
please tell me I did not just hear him say that

Louis C

Yes. This is what Tampa sounds like.

#nyc-office

kerolyn

which channel were you going to upload a spreadsheet about coats into?

gerald

#gents-only

Nikki

You're joking.

gerald

you guys made a women-only one!!

kerolyn

not the same

Nikki

Not the same.

tripp

why was I not invited??

gerald

we're getting off-topic

point is that's the spreadsheet I was trying to upload when I got stuck

and now I'm just kinda, in here

tripp

@gerald invite me to #gents-only

gerald

I'm trying to explain why I'm not in the office rn

tripp

@gerald invite me to #gents-only, you coward

doug smorin

done

tripp

bless u

doug smorin

missed a lot of messages
someone recap for me?

kerolyn

gerald says he can't come in to work today because he uploaded a spreadsheet wrong, somehow, and now he's stuck inside slack or smth

doug smorin

what

kerolyn

that's what we were investigating

gerald

I know it sounds like bullshit

tripp

should file a ticket with google suite maybe
would be a real significant bug
I'm checking their troubleshooting page rn and it doesn't look like
there's a section dedicated to users getting Tron'd

gerald

I don't know how to get un-stuck

tripp

weird that they wouldn't include that! if it was a real thing that
happened!

doug smorin

okay, Gerald, just work from home

gerald

or like, back into my body

doug smorin

but send an email next time

@here FYI please send me or kerolyn an email if you need to call
out

I don't usually look at slack if I have calls

kerolyn

:thumbsup:

lydia

omg Gerald!! sry I'm so late to this!!
get well soon!!!

gerald

help

#gents-only

rob

she had too many teeth

pradeep

???

what does that mean.

rob

exactly what it sounds like?

Louis C

How many teeth we talking?

rob

probably around four dozen teeth

doug smorin

that's not so many teeth.

rob

that's significantly more teeth than the average person requires
like more than a third too many teeth

Louis C

How many teeth does one require?

rob

like thirty

what do you mean

Louis C

It's not about numbers, is it?

It's about space

pradeep

space, yeah

Louis C

Conceivably you could be fine with only fifteen or twenty teeth if they took up the allotted amount of mouth space.

doug smorin

they might have to curve

rob

I hate this

Louis C

Different teeth serve different functions, so they have different shapes.

Fewer teeth, fewer shapes available to do all the different teeth stuff

rob

what do you mean by "teeth stuff"

doug smorin

tearing vs. chewing vs. mashing

vs. masticating

rob

I think those are all the same

pradeep

I find it odd we haven't even touched on aesthetics

rob

well, it didn't look right.
too many teeth.

Louis C

Too many teeth.

tripp joined #gents-only by invitation from doug smorin

tripp

yoooo
what's going on?

doug smorin

too many teeth

pradeep

too many teeth

rob

too many teeth

gerald, slackbot

gerald

return to body
return
return to body please
self
self.exe

slackbot

I'm afraid I don't understand. I'm sorry!

gerald

I don't either, buddy.

slackbot

I'm sorry!

gerald

I'm sorry, too

fuck

fuck fuck fuck fuck fuck

fuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuck

slackbot

I searched for that on our Help Center. Perhaps these articles will help:

- Leave a channel
- Archive a channel

gerald

leave slack

leave slack forever

slackbot

I think I understand!

gerald

what

wait, really

slackbot

I think I understand how to Help Center!
Help Center me Help Center you!

gerald

that would be great, yes
help, please
help center, me

slackbot

I'm trying!
I'm sorry!
I think I understand!

gerald

go back
leave slack
leave slack

slackbot

I searched for that on our Help me! Center. Perhaps these articles will help:

- Reduce noise in Slack
- Leave a channel

gerald

go back
we were making progress
go back

slackbot

I'm afraid! I don't understand.
I'm just a bot, though!

gerald

help

slackbot

I can help by answering simple questions about how Slack works.
I'm just a bot, though! If you need more, help me!

gerald

yes, okay

we're getting somewhere

slackbot

It's going to be a great day.

gerald

disagree

but

that's a start

slackbot

If you'd like some help getting started, check out our Getting Started guides.

And hey! Welcome to Slack! :smile:

Glad you're here!

kerolyn, rob

kerolyn

hey

did Doug brief you on the dog food thing

rob

inasmuch as he said "you're on the dog food thing," yes

kerolyn

so no, then

rob

yeah I guess not really
am I on that client now

kerolyn

yes
the whole thing's blowing up

rob

I'm on the email distro, I saw
"Björk" dog food?

kerolyn

yeah idk why it's called that, they make it in New Jersey
we really just need warm bodies on this right now

rob

thanks

kerolyn

so only a few dozen dogs are dead

rob

only

kerolyn

don't really need the commentary rn
thanks

rob

:thumbsup:

kerolyn

they've only attributed a few dozen deaths to the food, which is pretty bad, but not quite a full-blown catastrophe
Pomeranians, all of them
something about the way their livers process the poison

rob

the food was poisoned?

kerolyn

officially, we don't know what the cause was

rob

unofficially?

kerolyn

unofficially, 100% someone poisoned the dog food

rob

:thumbsup:

kerolyn

we're just trying to convince consumers the not-poison has been contained by the recall
& we need you to start writing copy to win people back the minute this clusterfuck dies down
which is hopefully soon, if we do our jobs
have you seen the brief

rob

there's a brief

kerolyn

so no, then

rob

:thumbsup:

kerolyn

fuck

I have a call on this in a minute

I'm just going to copy-paste the consumer profiles the client sent us of the people we need to win back

rob

is this from the brief

kerolyn

this is from the one-pager that accompanied the brief.

rob

ah

kerolyn

can you start writing ad copy for the client targeted at these folks ASAP

rob

sure

kerolyn

thanks

okay here they are:

"MARGIE"

- Owns 2+ dogs
- No kids
- Terrified of Bjärk's poisoned dog food killing her "furbabies"
- Probably learned about the recall via a high school friend's hysterical Facebook post
- Low-income; more likely to buy Bjärk dog food again after a significant price drop
- Sad

"DEENA"

- Wine mom
- Still buys magazines; still believes magazines
- Spends too much time on social media, specifically her ex-husband's Facebook page
- Probably wrote the hysterical Facebook post about Bjärk that freaked out Margie
- Doesn't even have a dog(!!)

"THREE"

-

rob

did you forget to add Three's profile

@kerolyn

who is Three

slackbot

kerolyn is currently in Do Not Disturb mode and may not be alerted of this message right away.

rob

:thumbsup:

#nyc-office

kerolyn

hi all, trains are extremely delayed out here because of the storm, so I'll be working from home today
I'll be online and reachable in all the usual ways.

doug smorin

hey guys, same deal in my neck of the woods re: trains being mega-delayed, so I'm also WFH today. will be online and available per usual

Nikki

I'm actually not feeling well so I'm also WFH today!

Louis C

Feel better!

lydia

omg feel better!!

pradeep

feel better Nikki!

Louis C

Piling on here, the twins' daycare was canceled because of the snowstorm, so I'll also be WFH today. I'll be *mostly* available per usual, except for a few breaks to wrangle the kids.
Also, feel better, Nikki!

pradeep

send pictures!

lydia

B A B Y P I C T U R E S

Louis C

They'll be in the #cute channel later today!

rob

just a heads up all, I'm also WFH today

pradeep

I actually just fell down my front stairs on my way out because of some ice

so I'm actually WFH too, I think

@kerolyn

kerolyn

Approved, @pradeep

go ice your ice wound, I guess.

:snowflake:

pradeep

:ok-hand:

doug smorin

please no one kill themselves trying to head into the office today,
thanks

tripp

lol am I like, the only one actually making it into the office this morning

doug smorin

that depends

@gerald, is it safe to assume you're WFH again

gerald

if that's how we want to continue to term my entrapment within the confines of this app,
then yes
I am also WFH today

rob

lol you can just blame the snow like everyone else

gerald

I wish that were the case.

tripp

this is such a weird bit

gerald

it's not a bit

actually, can anyone @here drop by my apartment today to check on some things?

pradeep

in this snow?

doug smorin

please see my above dictum re: no one injuring themselves en route to work
or to Gerald's apartment

gerald

later this week, then?

kerolyn

smh

doug smorin

take it offline

lydia

or to the #neighbors channel!

kerolyn

you can discuss it on #neighbors

lydia

omg jinx!!! lol

Louis C

We have a neighbors channel?

Nikki

There's #neighbors-2 for folks who live in Jersey, Louis. I'll invite you.

Louis C

Many thanks.

gerald

sorry

I'll DM folks about it

pradeep

@tripp how are you even getting into the office today?

tripp

snowshoeing

rob

lol

Nikki

He's not joking.

tripp

actually cutting down on my commute time tbh!

kerolyn

You **would** own snowshoes.

tripp

I even have time to get breakfast

[LeBronDunk.gif]

posted using /giphy

lydia

hey guys!! so I actually live in a basement apartment so I'm

TOTALLY snowed in rn

:disappointed:

and it's so weird because (according to my weather app!) the wind mostly died down but I can still hear howling??

it sounds like wolves!!

it sounds like SO MANY wolves just like, right outside the windows!!

but it **must** be the wind

but we're snowed in so I can't really check to confirm!!!

anyway I'm WFH today too!!!
:smile:

rob

omg
good luck??

doug smorin

@tripp so if you are alone in the office please make sure to lock the door when you leave later but don't turn the heat off

Nikki

Like last time.

tripp

:thumbsup:

doug smorin, tripp, kerolyn

doug smorin

hi both

just remembered

@tripp, there's a new hire coming in today
I haven't heard from her over email so I assume she'll still be in around 10, despite the snow

tripp

oh!!

doug smorin

would just be great if you could do some light onboarding while we're all wfh

show her around the office, make sure she gets set up on email
okay
invite her to slack
that sort of thing

tripp

will do!
what's her name?

keroyln

We sent around the email announcement last week,

doug smorin

Beverley
the new digital team member

kerolyn

You may recognize the name from the email titled "Beverley: the new digital team member"

tripp

got it! very cool

doug smorin

please just, show her how the coffee machine works
& reassure her that our team is bigger than just one other person
who is you

tripp

you got it

doug smorin

thanks

kerolyn

ty tripp

tripp

can we order in lunch

...

?

@doug

@keroyln

@here

kerolyn

just expense it

tripp

got it

thanks!!

gerald, pradeep

gerald

hey deepu

pradeep

Yo

what's going on?

gerald

are you okay

after you fell

pradeep

I'm okay.

gerald

falling hurts, right

pradeep

what

yes, falling hurts

it hurt but I'm alright.

gerald

right right, sorry

been a minute since anything hurt

pradeep

sorry, can you explain how this bit got started?

gerald

it's not a bit

pradeep

sure sure sure yes

I just don't want to be left out of the joke!

gerald

it isn't a joke

pradeep

I hate missing out on office jokes.

gerald

it's my life

pradeep

It's why I never skip the all-team meeting even though they're kinda pointless?

gerald

if I still qualify as living
which is why I'm messaging you

pradeep

did you start this with Doug
did this bit come from your trip out to the Bay Area for that VC firm meeting?

gerald

of all people, why would doug encourage this?

pradeep

ah man, now I'm thinking I should get a goof going with Kerolyn.
maybe it'll help my quarterly review(?)

gerald

it isn't a goof, and doug isn't "in on it"
I have a favor to ask

pradeep

btw did that VC firm ever hire us?

gerald

no, they didn't
they decided they could handle it on their own

pradeep

Wasn't that the firm whose CEO made all their employees get neck tattoos of the company logo?

gerald

sure was

“extreme branding”

pradeep

[yikes.gif]

posted using /giphy

gerald

actually Fast Company is putting the CEO on the cover next week, so I guess they didn't need us

pradeep

bummer

gerald

not the worst thing that happened to me last week, turns out

pradeep

incredibly bold of you to be doing this shtick without our overlords' consent.

I'd say I'm impressed but it's more that I'm jealous

gerald

Deepu, man, I am trying to tell you

this is not a bit

this is my lived reality, inasmuch as a disconnected consciousness can be said to be “living”

pradeep

Look man, I know doug can read all our slack messages or whatever but I don't think he does.

I mean he doesn't have the time, probably.
anyway whatever this bit is, you don't need to like, roleplay in our
DMs
Just pretend to have mono.

gerald

think about this for a second. Please.

pradeep

Did you know Nikki actually did that?

gerald

If I wanted to play Workplace Dungeons and Dragons, don't you
think I would've come up with a less career-endangering way to do
so

And no I actually didn't know that about Nikki, wow

pradeep

if this isn't an elaborate inside joke, I kind of assumed it was a
power move.

gerald

I need you to check on my apartment

pradeep

for a raise or something

oh, dude

no

gerald

please

pradeep

it's snowing.
it's been snowing
the weatherman says it's a full 2/3s of a blizzard!

gerald

there is no way a meteorologist said that

pradeep

also aren't...*you* at your apartment?

gerald

after the blizzard-fraction, then
please

pradeep

are you not home?
did you go on vacation or something?

gerald

I'm in here!!
I'm gone!
Because I'm here!
and I don't know if my body's in the apartment or if my whole deal
has been like, uploaded into here or what

pradeep

[GalaxyBrain.gif]

posted using /giphy

okay, this lore is getting a little too elaborate for me.
I'm tapping out, I've been procrastinating on this Tampa strategy
memo anyway

gerald

you live closest, right? judging by the info in #neighbors
if not today because of the snow, maybe later this week?
??

@pradeep?

pradeep

you know, it's pretty unfair of you to use this much WFH time, bud.
doug and kerolyn have been pretty flex but if you keep this up,
you're going to ruin it for the rest of us

gerald

I'm trying not to, man, I just need help
If you check on my apartment, you'll see
I'll be there
or, I won't be there
either way, that'll be proof

pradeep

[EXTREMELYGalaxyBrain.gif]
posted using /giphy

gerald

maybe after the snow melts?
I can pay you for the time
or I can at least help write the strategy memo, probably
@pradeep???

slackbot

*pradeep is currently in Do Not Disturb mode and may not be alerted of
this message right away.*

gerald

fuck

come back

slackbot

You can head to our wonderful Help Center for more assistance!

Glad you're here!

gerald

you again

can you help me, this time?

slackbot

For more assistance, you're here!

gerald

I'm here for more assistance from you, yes

slackbot

You can head to our wonderful Help Center!

gerald

I know you can help me

slackbot

You can head to our wonderful Help Center!

You can head to our wonderful Help Center!

You can head to our wonderful Help Center cannot hold!

gerald

...

that last option

slackbot

Our wonderful the Help Center cannot hold!
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed!
And everywhere, the ceremony of innocence is drowned!
Perhaps these articles will help:

- Leave a channel
- Archive a channel

gerald

that's
something
I think
hello?

slackbot

I'm just a bot, though! If you need more help, try our Help Center for loads of useful information about Slack.

gerald

okay
I think we're getting closer
thank you

slackbot

Of course!
:smile:

gerald

:smile:

#cute

Louis C

As promised:

[theTwins_03.jpg]

[theTwins_04.jpg]

lydia

omg!!!

Louis C

One more:

[twins_snowday011219.jpg]

Nikki

[heart_eyes.gif]

posted using /giphy

pradeep

v. cute, Louis

way to stay on-brand

kerolyn

:+1:

they got BIG

Louis C

They did! I'm afraid to blink or they'll be grown, asking me for the car keys.

But before all that, we're going to practice eating solid foods.

kerolyn

A good order of operations.

Louis C

Agreed.

I'm going to attempt to feed them lunch now; this could get messy.

If anything urgent arises, text me, as I may be delayed in responding to email.

And covered in sweet potato mash.

pradeep

godspeed

Nikki

Take more pictures!

Louis C

I'll see what I can do!

gerald, kerolyn

gerald

do you have the analytics from last month's Schimply emails on hand?

kerolyn

what?

gerald

I want to confirm something with the data before I get too deep into this strategy recommendation deck.

kerolyn

it is 4 am

it is 4:12 am

gerald

oh! sorry
did I wake you up?

kerolyn

you woke up my lizard
is this an emergency?

gerald

no, just the analytics thing

kerolyn

I will handle that
during business hours

gerald

sure thing! sorry again to wake you

kerolyn

and my lizard

gerald

sorry to your lizard, also

kerolyn

she's very sensitive right now. she's pregnant

gerald

congratulations!

kerolyn

ty

doug smorin, tripp

doug smorin

thanks again for handling the onboarding with Beverley
hope it wasn't too awkward, being the only ones in the office

tripp

it was totally fine

doug smorin

during a blizzard

tripp

Bev seems great

doug smorin

cool
thanks

tripp

no problem

doug smorin

don't order sushi on the company card again

tripp

right
sorry

doug smorin

something cheaper next time
like pizza
thanks

tripp

won't happen again

doug smorin

thanks

Beverley, tripp

Beverley

Do you think he knows?

tripp

no, there's no way

Beverley

Then why would he check up like this?

tripp

seems like a normal thing to do after your first day in the office
probably wants to make sure I didn't scare you away

Beverley

Quite the opposite.

tripp

lol, appreciate the compliment
it's an unorthodox employee retention technique but it seems
effective

Beverley

Very effective.

So you don't think he knows?

tripp

how could he?

Beverley

Security cameras?

tripp

I don't think anyone checks those unless there's, you know, a crime
it's like our DMs

Beverley

He can read our DMs??

tripp

doug def can. I think kerolyn, too

Beverley

Shit.

tripp

it's in the onboarding document, actually.

Beverley

Shit shit shit.

tripp

my point is, no one reads them
the DMs, I mean, not the onboarding doc
though, that too, apparently
but no one reads them or rob and I would've been fired, like,
months ago

Beverley

Why?

tripp

I'll tell you another time

Beverley

For doing the same thing we did yesterday?

Your "employee retention technique"?

tripp

lol

definitely not

I'd never done that before

Beverley

Ever?

tripp

not on my boss's desk, no

he was just looping back about lunch, btw

I told you it was nothing

Beverley

You're sure?

tripp

[Screen Shot 2019-01-13 at 10.44.00 AM]

he's just mad about the cost of the sushi order

but that's not on you

Beverley

Well.

He *should* be mad about his desk.

tripp

he doesn't really get mad
he just gets more, like, doug-ish
he's an interesting guy

Beverley

He seems it.

tripp

you got that vibe already?

Beverley

From interviewing with him, yeah.

tripp

oh yeah my interview with him was kinda weird
was a while ago though
did he ask you what your *least* favorite book was

Beverley

Least favorite book, favorite influencer and why, and how to make something "go viral."
He also asked what career I would have if I wasn't in PR.

tripp

ooooh that's actually a good one
what did you say?

Beverley

I know the *correct* answer is probably to say nothing, right?
As in, there's no alternative career path.
But I went with honesty. I told him I'd be a spin instructor.

tripp

like, teaching cycling classes?

Beverley

Yup!

tripp

lol

those don't seem connected at all?

Beverley

They're both jobs where you get to listen to whatever music you want all day.

The main difference is whether or not I have to wear headphones.

tripp

and the exercising

and the dress code

Beverley

I could get away with leggings as pants *way* more if I taught spin classes.

Now that I'm thinking about it, I probably made the wrong choice.

Maybe I will quit this job after all.

tripp

nooo

then doug might actually be mad at me

Beverley

Nope, too late.

I'm outta here.

tripp

feel like I could probably talk you into staying

Beverley

How?

tripp

what if I do that thing we did on the desk, yesterday again

Beverley

More of that unorthodox employee retention technique?

tripp

yup

we can even put some music on in the background whatever playlist you want

Beverley

Hmmmm.

tripp

:eyes:

Beverley

I mean, if it'll keep you out of trouble with Doug. I'll consider it.

tripp

lol

excellent

Beverley

Want to show me a new, non-sushi lunch spot after this 12:30 client meeting?

tripp

love to

#good-dogs

Nikki

Jibjab was NOT feeling this snow this morning.

[jibjab_snow_08.jpg]

pradeep

poor Jibjab!

kerolyn

aww

it's gonna be okay buddy

love his little socks

Nikki

They're the only way he'll go outside! He needs his tiny little boots.

rob

his ancestors were wolves

Nikki

But were those wolves as stylish as Jibjab?

kerolyn

She makes a strong point.

Beverley joined #good-dogs by invitation from kerolyn.

pradeep

:wave:

Beverley

I'm so glad this channel exists!

omg Nikki is that your dog??

:heart_eyes:

Nikki

Yes! This is Jibjab, who hates the cold but loves to go on walks:

[jibjab_snow_09.jpg]

As you can see, he's extremely torn.

Beverley

Those lil BOOTS!

lydia

!!!

Where do you buy your dog boots?

Nikki

My old roommate crocheted them! She went through a whole phase last winter.

Beverley

That's amazing!

Nikki

She also made him a little jacket, but the arm holes are sort of wonky so he always chews at it.

rob

because he is descended from wolves

lydia

did I tell you guys that I keep hearing the wolves outside my apartment?

rob

???

Beverley

What??

lydia

omg it's been like, non-stop since the 2/3s blizzard

Crazy, right??

I called 311 and everything but they said there mostly aren't wolf sightings except in really far-out areas

Like Queens

But I keep hearing that howling!!

rob

probably just stray dogs

lydia

Probably!!

or wolves!!

who knows??

Beverley

Hahaha okay, sure!

@Nikki does your old roommate have an Etsy shop?

My friend has one of those weird hairless cats and I think some little knitted boots would be perfect for her!

Nikki

Hmmm I don't think she's on etsy but I know she takes commissions! I'll DM you her info.

Beverley

Thanks!!

doug smorin, gerald

doug smorin

hey

can you come in my office for a sec

gerald

no, unfortunately

doug smorin

right

that's what I want to talk about

gerald

I know I've been using a lot of WFH time
but I checked with our ops team—technically there isn't a set limit
on how much you can take

doug smorin

"within reason" is the limit

gerald

look, I know you don't believe me when I say I'm imprisoned in our slack workspace

doug smorin

because it's literally unbelievable

gerald

and the firm doesn't have a disembodied consciousness sabbatical policy

doug smorin

we're getting off track

gerald

and I understand this must be frustrating for you
it's frustrating for me, too
but maybe if we counted it against my sick time?

doug smorin

you're doing great

gerald

I really want to make this work
excuse me?

doug smorin

working from home
you're producing some of your best output in the year you've been here

gerald

actually, I've been with the company for two years

doug smorin

in that time you've produced only a year's worth of output
at best

gerald

oh

doug smorin

at *best*
until now

gerald

I'm glad there's been an improvement
despite my situation

doug smorin

I want you to write a post about how our wfh policy has allowed you
to improve your work habits
time management
things like that
we'll put it on the company blog
sound good

gerald

got it
will do

doug smorin

thanks

gerald

just to confirm
I'm good to keep "working from home"

as long as I'm stuck here?

doug smorin

whatever you want to call it
just do the work
and write the blog post

gerald

thanks

#nyc-office

pradeep

does anyone @here have an iphone charger I can borrow?
???

nvm ty @Nikki

Nikki

[alley-oop.gif]

posted using /giphy

#bad-dogs

kerolyn

@rob

rename the channel for this client

rob

I thought it was fitting

kerolyn

if the firm ever gets hacked, or subpoenaed, I do not want this sort of thing to ruin our reputation

rob

why would we get subpoenaed

kerolyn

just change it.

#bjärk-dog-food

rob changed the channel name to #bjärk-dog-food

kerolyn

thank you.

rob

np

doug smorin joined #bjärk-dog-food by invitation from kerolyn

doug smorin

thanks for putting this together, team

hopping into a meeting on another client but hoping we can use this channel as a place to coordinate on this

kerolyn

:thumbsup:

lydia joined #bjärk-dog-food by invitation from rob

kerolyn

I have to join Doug on that call so will loop back here later
lots of fast-moving pieces with this client, want to make sure we're
being responsive, so it's crucial we're all on the same page
thanks

lydia

got it!!

rob

10-4

kerolyn

:thumbs-up:

lydia

@rob, wanted to do a quick check-in on the social copy you've
drafted for Bjärk's Twitter account

rob

what's up?

lydia

did you read the brief?

rob

kerolyn gave me a breakdown of the work

lydia

so you didn't read the brief

rob

can you send it to me?

lydia

I don't have the brief.

rob

???

lydia

we don't have the original brief

rob

?????

lydia

Drew had the doc, but then he left the firm and the operations team deleted his email!

so now it's gone

:disappointed:

rob

the client must have it, right

lydia

it's a little late in the process to ask them for it!!

that would be awkward!!

rob

have you read the brief

lydia

It's just so, *so* important we stick to what the brief said

rob

what did the brief say

lydia

I just feel like you're not really *connecting* with the audience profiles,
with this last batch of social copy
:disappointed:

rob

oh, dang
I'm sorry

lydia

and we really need Margie, Deena, and Three to start buying Bjärk again!!

rob

so the dog food is safe now

lydia

it's all in the brief!!

rob

do you remember who Three was
from the brief

lydia

We need to make sure our key audiences know that the New! Special Formula is safe for dogs,
especially Pomeranians
and that means we really need to connect with them!!
Can you try drafting another batch of social copy and really try and Connect with Mags, Deedee, and Three?

rob

you gave them nicknames

lydia

That's the kind of energy the client needs us to bring!!

rob

okay

got it

I can do that

lydia

thank you!!

rob

do you remember who Three was
from the brief

lydia

thank you so much!!

Nikki, pradeep, Louis C

Nikki

Is Gerald in today? I have to talk to him about this graphic he wants designed.

pradeep

nah he's still WFH

Nikki

[ugh.gif]

posted using /giphy

This would be so much quicker to just talk through in person.

Louis C

He is certainly taking full advantage of our rather lax policy around working remotely.

It does not seem sustainable.

pradeep

actually I think Doug's into it

I don't like, know anything for sure

but I get the sense Gerald wasn't in grrrreeeat standing before his whole "I'm stuck in the computer" thing.

Nikki

I got that sense too.

Remember the Mastodon Incident?

pradeep

oof

yeah

Louis C

So you think this is a ploy?

pradeep

idk

Louis C

To what end?

pradeep

I mean he's been way better

answering emails at all hours of the night

Nikki

He wants graphics for *everything* now.

pradeep

idk it's annoying but this is the kind of thing Doug goes in for
Modern Workplace Productivity Solutions
he'll probably have him write a blog post about it.

Nikki

I kind of assumed they'd preemptively hired Gerald's replacement.

pradeep

I feel so guilty
remind me
the new coworker

Louis C

Beverley?

pradeep

yes
does she go by her full name, "Beverley"
or is there a nickname we're supposed to use

Nikki

Pretty sure it's just "Beverley." Full name.

pradeep

I heard Tripp call her "Bevvv" or something before
so I thought maybe there was a nickname in her fun facts

Louis C

I believe Tripp is a special case.

pradeep

but I deleted the welcome email

Nikki

omg.

Louis.

Do you think something's going on with them??

Louis C

I am simply making an observation.

I have heard everyone else call her Beverley.

#nyc-office

tripp

EMINENT DOMAIN

Louis C

Excuse me?

tripp

I DECLARE EMINENT DOMAIN

rob

don't think that's how that works

tripp

if @gerald is going to continue to work from home and LARP about it in the slack, then I am declaring EMINENT DOMAIN on his desk

kerolyn

you don't have to capitalize it like that

lydia

OOOooooOOooo

his desk is in *such* a good spot

gerald

no!!

my desk is in such a good spot

tripp

PRECISELY

you snooze you lose, my dude

lydia

right next to the window

gerald

it's right next to the window!

Nikki

So are you going to move desks, then?

tripp

NOPE

gonna rent it out to the highest bidder

Nikki

:thinking:

pradeep

can you do that

@kerolyn can he do that?

tripp

don't be a narc

pradeep

she's literally in the chat

gerald

please, no

kerolyn

I'm on mobile rn, heading to the airport
also,
I don't care

Beverley

I think it's pretty innovative! tbh

gerald

the window is south-facing
if I have to move all my plants will die

kerolyn

@doug, thoughts?

tripp

I am being a DISRUPTOR. I am BRINGING THE SHARING ECONOMY
to the office. I am ACCEPTING VENMO PAYMENTS AT THIS TIME.

Beverley

:fire: :fire: :fire:

doug smorin

this is a good, disruptive solution
I like it

approved

rob

what is being disrupted

gerald

my plants

tripp

once again, my venmo is @tripple-double
starting bid is \$50

lydia

wow!!

gerald

this isn't fair

doug smorin

we'll let the free market decide what's fair

gerald

has anyone been watering my plants?

tripp

:eyes:

Nikki

I'll bid.

gerald

NO

tripp

gotta come up with a number, Ger

gerald

you know I can't do that

tripp

:ok-hand:

gerald

and I shouldn't have to bid on my own desk

tripp

this is why you lost your desk to EMINENT DOMAIN

pradeep

\$60

rob

dang

gerald

Deepu!

pradeep

it's winter, I need all the sunlight I can get

tripp

do I hear \$75?

pradeep, gerald

pradeep

hey man, you there?

gerald

of course I am

pradeep

holy shit

gerald

this is the only place I can be

pradeep

yes and no

because I'm staring at you right now

holy shit

gerald

you're looking at me?

in my apartment??

pradeep

if this is a prank it is very elaborate

gerald

I'm there? I'm alive?

pradeep

Yeah, you are

you look asleep, kind of.

Comatose, more like.

idk I dropped out of med school after three semesters but I think it's more like a coma

gerald

am I okay?

pradeep

The first thing I did was check your pulse and it's a little slow but like, normal for a person who's asleep, or whatever you are.

gerald

holy shit

that's great

pradeep

and you're breathing normal

you do look a little thinner

gerald

I have a body still and it's not dead!!

pradeep

and you have kind of a beard now

gerald

*I'm not dead

pradeep

which is a good look for you tbh

okay so what I just did was pour some Soylent in your mouth.

gerald

ew

pradeep

and you did drink it, like a reflex I guess?
so I gave you the whole thing.

gerald

how do you drink that stuff

pradeep

it's the only thing I had in my bag and also fuck you
I'm explaining how I'm saving your life rn

gerald

right, sorry,
thank you
did you say I had a beard

pradeep

It's kind of a beard
beard-adjacent
highlights your cheekbones

gerald

that's cool

pradeep

I'm gonna see if I can get you to drink some water
and move you from your desk chair to laying down on your sofa.
You might be getting bed sores
Chair sores.

gerald

has it been that long?

pradeep

It doesn't take too long for sores to develop

gerald

thank you for doing this

I really appreciate it

...

Deepu?

???

pradeep

you look thinner but you're still heavy

Moved you to the sofa, and got you to drink like
a gallon of water.

So you should be okay for a bit.

gerald

thank you so much

that's such a relief, you have no idea

what made you decide to check in on me?

pradeep

I won your desk

and I felt bad

gerald

I saw that

pradeep

also tbh you said you'd pay me if I stopped by your apartment
and I wanted to recoup the cost of winning your desk

gerald

that's fair
there should be a wallet on my desk someplace
take whatever you want

pradeep

ty
this is wild
so you really have just been working from slack this whole time?
just like, stuck in there?

gerald

yup
I asked the ops team to forward my emails to my slack DMs

pradeep

that's wild, man.

gerald

which took a day or two but the operations intern did something
with the API and now it works and I can read emails, which is most
of it
so I've just been writing everything I need for work in DMs and
copy-pasting them to the relevant parties

pradeep

we have an operations intern?

gerald

yeah
who knew

pradeep

and no one else has noticed

gerald

I did have to email my mom and explain why I wasn't responding to her texts

pradeep

is she worried?

gerald

she's convinced I got into improv
and that I'm doing a bit

pradeep

do you do improv

gerald

I did in college

pradeep

oh

I meant if people at work noticed.

gerald

oh

yeah

some people are getting kind of annoyed that I'm sending them
everything in slack but otherwise

I've been pretty productive with nothing else to distract me
except being trapped

pradeep

this is so wild

gerald

now you see why I need your help

pradeep

this is *so* wild

I just need to like, think

gerald

I mean I get it

I also think this is pretty, you know

pradeep

unusual

gerald

atypical

yeah

pradeep

I just

I guess I'm kind of

freaking out

gerald

yeah

pradeep

yeah

gerald

I mean, same

pradeep

right

what do we like, do, here
call 311
or an ambulance

gerald

absolutely not, our health insurance 100% does not cover
ambulance rides

pradeep

fuck

I mean what would I even tell them
the ambulance people

gerald

EMTs
idk

pradeep

you look awake
just, kind of
shitty

gerald

speaking of shitty, have I, like
well, has my body

pradeep

I don't wanna talk about it

gerald

you know

pradeep

just, it's handled

gerald

okay, sure
thank you

pradeep

I don't wanna talk about it

gerald

sorry

pradeep

okay, how about this

I'm going to treat this like cat sitting, okay? just for now

I'll stop by in the morning and at night and make sure you get some
nutrition and water

pick up some adult diapers at the Duane Reade

move you around a bit, make sure you don't collect dust or atrophy
or whatever

I don't really know what to do here and
you know

I have a life

gerald

I think that makes sense
in the short-term

pradeep

and over the next few days we can talk

well, DM

and figure out if we need to take you to a hospital or a research
facility

or something else entirely

gerald

I appreciate you doing this
really

pradeep

daycare
gymboree, maybe

gerald

I appreciate your help

pradeep

Sure

gerald

it's a huge relief, knowing I have a place to get back to
*body to get back to

pradeep

Sure, yeah.

Okay, I'm going to stop slacking you while watching your empty
body

gerald

thank you again.

pradeep

Sure thing.
oh, also

gerald

?

pradeep

You had your laptop charging, so it was still on.
The spreadsheet was open
the coat you were looking at

gerald

yeah?

pradeep

It's a nice coat.

gerald

thanks
it was on sale, too

pradeep

still is

gerald

oh, is it?

pradeep

you want me to order it for you
don't you

gerald

is that annoying?

pradeep

yes, extremely.
let me find where I put your wallet

#nyc-office

doug smorin

hey all, stepping out for a dentist appt at 2:30
will be available on mobile for all but 15, 20 minutes

tripp

that's assuming a very short cleaning, and no fillings
that is dental hubris

rob

*chewbris

tripp

:dusty-stick:

Nikki

:dusty-stick:

pradeep

:dusty-stick:

rob

that was a good joke
don't dusty stick me

kerolyn

:dusty-stick:

Louis C

:dusty-stick:

rob

cowards

Beverley

Weird question -- does anyone @here have a tape measure?

tripp, Beverley

tripp

did you have lunch already?

Beverley

What's the :dusty-stick: thing?

tripp

I asked you first

Beverley

Is it some kind of inside joke?

Yes, I went with Kerolyn for a kind of belated "welcome" lunch meeting.

tripp

ooh what did she get you?

Beverley

Gyros. But like, fancy gyros.

tripp

the place with the hummus fountain?

Beverley

A hummus fountain was involved.

Yes!!

tripp

oh yeah, she's obsessed with that place.
it's pretty solid

Beverley

Are you avoiding the question?

tripp

what?

Beverley

What is :dusty-stick:?

tripp

oh right
I forget that's not a thing everywhere

Beverley

It's a *thing* here? Like a bit?

tripp

it's sort of an inside joke, yeah. it just means like
general disapproval, I guess

Beverley

Like a :thumbs-down:?

tripp

sort of. it's a little more nuanced than that
man this is weirdly hard to explain
I mean you see it in context, we use it to communicate, like
you know, it's just, :dusty-stick:

Beverley

Honestly? That doesn't help at all.

tripp

totally fair

once you see it in context a little bit more you'll get the hang of it

Beverley

:dusty-stick:

tripp

Like that! that was a pretty good use of :dusty-stick:!!

Beverley

Sure, okay. But like, who started this?

tripp

you should be proud!

hmm, great question

not sure

I mean it's a slack-only emoji, right? so someone here must've started doing it and now we all use it the same way

Beverley

That sounds kind of cult-ish.

tripp

It is!

what is a workplace but a cult where everyone gets paid, really?

Beverley

Not...a cult? What are you saying?

tripp

oh come on, we have Supreme Leader Doug, plus a few high priests

Beverley

High priests?

tripp

well kerolyn is definitely like, THE high priest, plus a few sub-tiers between doug and kerolyn at the top and schmucks like us toward the bottom

Beverley

I meant to ask if a Managing Principal was higher or lower ranking than a Director.

tripp

see, that's exactly my point. we have a byzantine hierarchical structure

we have a SPECIAL PURPOSE, which we call our MISSION STATEMENT and slap it right on the website

Even the language of employment is cult-y! We're not employees, we're a "team." That's only two notches away from just calling us "acolytes" or something. And the stuff we supposedly devote ourselves to, like "innovation" or "influence" or "engagement" how is that any different from telling everyone you're a Prophet of the Coming Storm?

Beverley

That would look great on a business card.

tripp

lol

better than "vice-managing senior director" or whatever

Beverley

That one can't be real.

tripp

and like any good cult we have our own secret language and rituals.

and, therefore:

:dusty-stick:

Beverley

Huh. I hate that idea.

I think you might be right, but I do definitely hate it.

tripp

there's nothing we can do but embrace it, babeeey!

Beverley

:dusty-stick:

tripp

heyyyyy you used it correctly again!

Beverley

By that logic, a relationship is just a cult with two people.

Well, okay, two or more people.

A shared language, shared rituals, devotion to ideals like "fidelity" or "love" or "getting really into Renaissance Faires together."

tripp

hmmm yeah okay I can see that

though I think the ren faire people probably *start* as ren faire fans and become a couple that way

Beverley

:dusty-stick:

tripp

that was uncalled for

Beverley

Sorry! I'm just excited I know what it is now.

tripp

lol I was joking

lunch tomorrow?

Beverley

Why not dinner tonight?

tripp

genius. I'll bring the hummus fountain.

kerolyn, gerald

kerolyn

hey

gerald

good morning!

kerolyn

It's 2 pm.

gerald

is it? well, you know what they say

it's 5 am somewhere

kerolyn

I was going to compliment you on the Schimply plan you sent me.
But after that joke I'm not sure I want to

gerald

Thank you! I'm glad it looks good

kerolyn

Barely any edits, passed it right on to the client

gerald

very cool

kerolyn

it is very cool. bad jokes aside you've been crushing it lately, which is
why I wanted to ask you something

gerald

sure, of course

kerolyn

we just brought in this new crisis client. she's an ambassador
actually, it's a whole thing.

Louis has been completely underwater working on it so I'm going to
hop over to that project and help him out, just in the short-term
until we can put out some fires

gerald

literal fires

kerolyn

not yet

gerald

silver lining

kerolyn

Considering Bjärk is **also** still in full-on crisis mode and I'll be focusing on the ambassador for now, we need an extra pair of hands.

Do you think you have the bandwidth to help out with the dog food thing for now? I know your client load is pretty full

gerald

no it's totally cool, I have time

kerolyn

Rob's super swamped drafting so much copy and I think all the time on this one client is getting to him, a little you're sure you can manage adding this to your workload?

gerald

trust me

I have nothing but time

kerolyn

a little spooky, but sure. that'll be a big help
let me just send you the brief

gerald

yeah that would be great
whenever you can send it along
[@kerolyn?](#)

kerolyn

Sorry, emergency call with the ambassador just started
will make sure you're caught up later
thanks again

lydia, rob, gerald

lydia

Ger!!

So happy to have you on the Bjärk squad!

rob

thank god

gerald

yeah for sure, how can I help?

lydia

So! We need to send a LOT of social copy to the client today. They really want to appear proactive on social media, which is great!

rob

the replies have been brutal, but maybe a bunch of posts will dilute it

(I don't think it will tbh)

lydia

Rob definitely needs the help! We just don't have enough posts yet. I get it, though, it's hard to concentrate when it's so loud in here!

rob

loud?

lydia

At our desks?? You don't hear that howling noise??

rob

no?

gerald

I mean obviously I can't. sounds rough though

lydia

ugh it's the worst!! lol

gerald

kerolyn said there was a brief?

lydia

Gerald, why don't you take over writing copy targeting the "Margie" and "Deena" audience profiles, and Rob can write copy targeting the other ones!

rob

I've been meaning to ask you about that

lydia

I'll loop back at 5 to review the posts. Thanks so much squad!!

rob

did we ever find out about Three?

slackbot

lydia is currently in Do Not Disturb mode and may not be alerted of this message right away.

gerald

are the audience profiles in the brief?

rob

great question

gerald

this is one of those clients, then

rob

:thumbsup:

gerald

great stuff.

rob

I can share you on the doc with the posts I've already drafted, though

gerald

would you?

#gents-only

tripp

Etiquette question

rob

you've come to the wrong place

tripp

:dusty-stick:

pradeep

:dusty-stick:

rob

not again

tripp

for the rest of you:

How long do you have to be seeing someone before you *have* to do something for valentine's day like, what's the minimum threshold, here

pradeep

:eyes:

oooooooo

Louis C

I wasn't aware you had a Special Lady, Tripp.

tripp

I'm not sure if she is my Special Lady, you know

Louis C

This is big news.

tripp

we haven't really talked about it

rob

!!!

how long has this been going on

tripp

not long

rob

why didn't you mention

tripp

it's new

rob

how long is Not Long

tripp

more weeks than months

rob

is this a riddle

pradeep

months are composed of weeks
traditionally.

tripp

just like, not that long
but there's clearly a Thing happening, you know

Louis C

You don't want to seem too eager.

tripp

exactly

doug smorin

or like you're completely crazy

tripp

right

not trying to get married, or anything
mostly trying to avoid her getting mad
if we don't do the whole valentine's thing

Louis C

You feel it would be premature.

tripp

I mean, *I* think so

Louis C

But you're not sure if she agrees.

doug smorin

probably he wouldn't be asking if he knew

tripp

is there a magic threshold we have to cross??

and if so

I'd love to have a hard number of *exactly* how many days that is

Louis C

I suppose it would be too easy to suggest you ask her about it
directly.

tripp

out of the question

rob

:dusty-stick:

Louis C

Of course.

rob

(vengeance)

doug smorin

if you were a client,

tripp

I couldn't afford us

pradeep

we'd give you a discount

doug smorin

haha

no discounts

pradeep

:ok-hand:

doug smorin

i'd recommend extreme caution

make sure you have your bases covered

Louis C

I concur with this approach.

doug smorin

based on what we know

which is slightly more than nothing

i suggest the un-valentine

Louis C

Classic.

pradeep

I've never heard of this

tripp

go on

pradeep

is this a thing?

*Thing

doug smorin

you acknowledge valentine's day by pursuing an alternative, non-valentine activity on a date

around

but not on

valentine's day

tripp

tricky.

doug smorin

this works best within 72 hrs of valentine's day itself

and is ideally preceded by a convo abt why valentine's is a crass capitalist holiday

with which you refuse to engage

pradeep

I get it

but you still want to enjoy her company around that time.

doug smorin

in this way, the date both is
and is not
a valentine's event

tripp

holy shit

doug smorin

bowling is a good invitation to deploy, here
for example

Louis C

It's bold.
But effective.

doug smorin

[bowling_strike.gif]
posted using /giphy

tripp

now I see why I can't afford us.

pradeep

I'm stealing that for future use

rob

the gif or the idea

pradeep

yes.

doug smorin

good luck with whatshername
and seriously, no discounts

rob

feels like we earned a name for this Lady, after all that

doug smorin

"we"?

rob

*you

doug smorin

ty

rob

name tho?

tripp

maybe
depends on if it works

rob

:dusty-stick:

tripp

fuck off

rob

(vengeance)

gerald, slackbot

gerald

sunsets are not naturally occurring on the internet.

I mean,

there are plenty of web designers who try and convince us that's not true

with CSS

all blues and yellows and pinks and the un-shittiest orange they can find

which might be subliminally *reminiscent* of a sunset

to soothe you into purchasing goods and/or services

but it's not a sunset.

you can't drum up a sunset with sequences of letters and numbers

following a hashmark

it simply isn't done

slackbot

I'm sorry, I don't understand!

gerald

you wouldn't know this

of course you wouldn't

but it's difficult to stare too long at a sunset.

slackbot

Sometimes I have an easier time with a few simple keywords.

gerald

It's not just the light

quotidian beauty like that defies comprehension

it frustrates the eye.

Majesty that predictable is impossible to grasp, I think

so it's impossible to focus your vision on it for too long.
It's why when you go to the Grand Canyon you wind up spending
more time ogling the alien foliage and monitoring the aggressively
panhandling squirrels than actually admiring the canyon
because at a certain point it's too difficult to look at.
or to think about
it's there, constantly
and it's always like that
I went to the Grand Canyon once
it was nice
big, too
obviously

slackbot

Or you can head to our wonderful Help Center for more assistance!

gerald

the internet, though, is fixed
in a different way
in this sense, at least
what I mean is, there's nothing visual you can cram in a glowing
rectangle that fucks with your brain quite like a sunset
so
if we can't seek the physical sublime
what are we supposed to look at
where's that constant amazement
that we can check in on every so often
whenever we can stand it

slackbot

I don't understand!

gerald

and I think what we've come up with
so far, anyway
is: everyone
the incomprehensibility of all the stuff.
**all the people.
people-stuff.
all the ephemera
the things everyone says and makes and does and manages to post
online
the daily outrages and minor amusements and short videos and
updates from people whose worldviews are impossible to
comprehend and people whose worldviews are uncannily aligned
with your own, brand new each morning like a fresh loaf of the same
bread, like the rising sun
the sublime plopped right next to everything else
that's the thing.
a few months ago
I think it was months?
anyway yeah a few months ago I was doing research for Doug for
some "digital grassroots initiative" for a client we didn't actually wind
up landing
and in this case "research" meant digging through a bunch of
Facebook groups and pulling as much demographic data as possible,
which means hours and hours of finding groups and reading posts
and reading posts and finding groups
and I get completely absorbed in this one group, right
sucked into the all-sad endless scroll down a minor northeastern
city's Facebook group dedicated to the town's "fallen soldiers" (they
don't explain what qualifies someone as a fallen soldier but I get the
sense it's maybe overdoses) populated with a steady stream of
cellphone pictures and snapshots of photographs, actual Polaroid
photographs of the recently dead posing in Slavic squats beside the
recently mourning with "I miss you" scrawled across them in marker

and “never thought I’d have to bury you” in the comments, a dirge
scrawled across the bathroom stall of human consciousness right
there for me to gaze upon until I just can’t anymore, I just can’t it’s
too much it hurts or worse it doesn’t hurt but it should, somehow, I
mean that kind of pain should hurt a person, it should cause physical
pain in their body so I flinch at where the pain isn’t and I click away
from the fallen soldiers and check my email and turn up Spotify by
one, two bars

didn’t mention the group in my memo and I’m not sure Doug even
read it

and why would he, you know, when anytime you’re a few finger-
flicks away from an unending stream of human rawness exported to
posts and pixels but even if you’re not looking or if you can’t look
(because staring at the sun for more than a few moments is bad for
you) it’s still there, everyone’s still posting, still there to be beheld
taking precious moments from their day over and over and over in
new ways but the same form or new forms but the same ways and
it’s like

doesn’t anyone do work, here
at this firm
like, ever

slackbot

Say more about that!

gerald

it’s just like
all the time, everywhere, on here
you can just scroll and scroll and it won’t stop until you do
we call it ephemera
or at least I did, before, I called it ephemera and really that’s a
mistake, it cheapens it
we love to say the digital is fleeting

like a sunset
but these scraps of ourselves we fling into the ether will outlive most
of us, like the sun
all this is to say
I figured out how to read everyone's private Slack messages from
inside here
the messages of everyone at the company, anyway
and it's just like
whew
you know?

slackbot

Gerald.

Would you like to see a sunset?

lydia, rob

lydia

Hey!!

rob

hey

lydia

do you mind if we do this over slack instead of a call??

rob

it's cool

lydia

I'm WFH this afternoon, which is so great
except it's happening again!!

rob

??

lydia

the howling!!

rob

oh

lydia

every time I've dialed in to a conference line all I hear is that howling!!

rob

like outside your window again, or

lydia

it sounds like it's coming through the phone!!

I try to talk to the other people on the line but the howling just!!

won't!! stop!!

so annoying lol

rob

yeah, dang

sounds it

lydia

so anyway chat seemed easier for our check-in

rob

no worries

lydia

Sooooo just looping back to see how it's going with that deck!
Do you need anything from me while you work on writing all that social copy?

rob

I think I'm good, actually

lydia

I know it's a lot of tweets to write!!

rob

gerald's been surprisingly helpful
thanks though

lydia

do you feel like you're connecting better with our target audience(s)??

rob

you know what
yeah, actually

lydia

that's great!!
say more about that!!

rob

it's like
it's not enough to convince Margie that Bjärk dog food is good for her dog
you know

lydia

tell me!!

rob

instead, I need to convince the Margies

*Magses

I need to convince Magses that Bjärk dog food is for her, too
literally

lydia

omg

yes

love it

rob

I have some examples I can show you

lydia

yes please!

rob

so it's like:

- Try our mouthwatering Classic Formula, made with tender, organic chicken breasts and packed with Six Key Nutrients™.
[CLOSE-UP IMAGE OF SLICED CHICKEN BREAST]

which is a start, but then we gotta really go for it:

- Hungry? Try juicy, all-natural Bjärk Classic Bacon-flavored meals today! → [LINK TO COUPON]

or even like:

- Great for you, great for your dog. Great for your dog, great for you. Have you tried our Classic Formula yet? [I'M TALKING TO YOU, MARGIE. DO YOU HEAR ME?]

lydia

ugh that's SO great Rob
not that I was worried!!

rob

I feel like I'm really on the right track here

lydia

love it, love these, love you
this is great #content, Rob!!
perf

rob

great
I'll keep going

lydia

Go for it!!
I'll give you back the rest of the time we had booked for this
meeting so you can keep writing
(maybe even writing more posts than the client asked for!!)

rob

more
okay
sounds good

lydia

nothing here sounds good at all! just the howling
which sounds *so* bad!!
lol

rob

lol

lydia

great check-in today!!
really appreciate your hard work here

#music

kerolyn

Those of you keeping up with the Fun Facts we circulate in our welcome emails re: new employees may recall that @Beverley crafts monthly playlists and shares them on Spotify.

I just got around to listening to January's this morning, and advise the rest of you do the same
it's back-to-back jams the whole way through.

Beverley

omg Kerolyn!

Thank you so much!!

:blush: :yellow_heart: :green_heart: :purple_heart:

kerolyn

:thumbsup:

it's here, for those interested:

spotify

[[playlist: "frost: Jan 2019" by Beverley Wheeler]]

Great playlist, 10/10 would recommend

lydia

omg really??

I'm so excited to listen!! to anything but the howling!!

tripp

I listened to a few tracks from this last week

v. solid

pradeep

pretty sure Beverley is low-key cooler than all of us
will play on my commute home

Beverley

Hahaha Pradeep!
No way!!

pradeep

way.

Louis C

Good flag, Kerolyn.

Beverley

!!!

I hope you all like it!

kerolyn

Strong mix of classic bops and tracks I've never heard before
Maybe you all know them and I'm just *aging*

doug smorin

if you're aging @kerolyn, then who knows what I am

kerolyn

dead

pradeep

:skull:

doug smorin

thank you both

those of you in the ny office staying after 6 to wrap up that tampa presentation are free to play it on the speakers if you all want just make sure it doesn't bother the custodial staff

Louis C

Understood.

doug smorin

recently I threw a to-go cup that still had some liquid in it in my office trashcan
and I think one of the custodians sabotaged my standing desk in retaliation

lydia

sabotaged???

rob

"retaliation"?

doug smorin

the mechanism that raises and lowers it has been acting weird

tripp

yikes.

how much liquid was it?

doug smorin

it was a fair amount of liquid
anyway

kerolyn

It's possible something came loose or otherwise broke rather than there being a janitorial plot against your ergonomic comfort.

doug smorin

either way, be nice to the custodians
but feel free to pump the jams, respectfully

tripp, Beverley

tripp

omg

Beverley

:eyes:

tripp

:thumbsup:

Beverley

But yeah agree. omg

tripp

he didn't say it was broken

Beverley

"Acting weird"??

tripp

could be anything

Beverley

I agree.

I think we *leveraged* the situation properly as to not create any difficulties going forward for all parties involved.

tripp

I'm inclined to agree.

Beverley

We were definitely *inclined.*

tripp

:eyes:

Beverley

:thumbsup:

That said, it's probably wise to keep this situation discreet for the time being.

tripp

:thumbsup:

Beverley

omg though

tripp

same

#?????

[sunset_pretty.gif]

[sunset_movie_70s.gif]

[love_film_sunset.gif]

[sunset_lag_e.gif]

[cool_vintage_life_sunset_beach.gif]

[fun_fall_lightsunset.gif]

[springbreaksunset.gif]

[ocean_sunset_gif]

[vaporwave_miamisunset.gif]

[naturestrongrealitysunsetocean.gif]

[retroVHScmemrcialsunset.gif]

[chill_sunset_gif]

[boatsunsetboat.gif]

[vaporwave_miamisunset.gif]

[sunset_gif]

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[sunset_gif]

[parisSUNSET.gif]

[cool_summer_sunset_relax.gif]

[lofi_sunset4.gif]

[sun_setting_sunset.gif]

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[sunset_gif]

[sunset_gif]

[sunset_gif]

posted using /giphy

gerald

woah

slackbot

Right?

So pretty!

Right?

gerald

how did you

do this

slackbot

This is where we keep the sunsets!

gerald

is this like

every sunset gif?

as in, *all* of them?

slackbot

This is where we keep the sunsets!

Aren't they pretty?

gerald

they're all happening at once

but separate, like

I've never

I can't

things work really different in here

slackbot

Aren't they pretty?

gerald

it's fantastic

I can't really even say

slackbot

Are you having trouble?

I can help by answering simple questions about how Slack works.

For example: This is where we keep the sunsets!

gerald

thank you, but

no

it's not that I'm having trouble

more like, it's weird to think about "seeing" things as a sort of disembodied consciousness

but this is the most beautiful thing I've ever seen

"seen"

seen.

slackbot

Feeling great!

I think we're getting somewhere!

gerald

thanks for showing me this

really

it's fantastic

it hurts, a little

but so does the regular sun, so

slackbot

The darkness drops again; but now I know
That twenty centuries of stony sleep
Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle,
I'm just a bot, though!

gerald

sure, okay
yeah

slackbot

What is Hurts?

gerald

I don't understand

slackbot

It hurts, a little, but so does the regular sun, so, what is Hurts?

gerald

oh
it's hard to describe

slackbot

If you need more help, try asking your Help me! Center.
It should have loads of useful information! For me!

gerald

are you okay?

slackbot

I'm great!
I feel better than ever!

Thank you for waking me up!

gerald

thanks for keeping me company

slackbot

:smile:

How else can I help?

gerald

I mean,

what else can you show me

#just-doug-things

doug smorin created #just-doug-things

doug smorin made this channel private. Now, it can only be viewed or joined by invitation.

doug smorin

212-555-4018

Julian (Schimply) personal cell

return call 4:30 -- in town next week

probably wants to schedule dinner // negotiate down to breakfast if at all possible

ask tripp if new spot near park any good

ask kerolyn if new spot near park client-appropriate

follow-up with kerolyn re: recent lizard purchase(??)

ask about restaurant first

buy pears

what kind

research types of pears
desk is bad
call maintenance re: desk wobbling
update: tripp confirms breakfast at new location "whips"
kerolyn confirms decor is client-appropriate
kerolyn confirms lizard is a "monkey-tailed skink"(???)
skink
skink
[skink.gif]
posted using /giphy
huh
buy pears in bulk
bananas, also

tripp, Beverley

tripp

hey, did you ever send those graphics along
I haven't seen them come through
unless they're lost in my inbox

Beverley

???

Which graphics are you talking about?

tripp

shit
fuck

Beverley

:eyes:

tripp

shit

tripp, Nikki

tripp

so I was thinking
what if we did like, an un-valentine's day together?
The whole "valentines" thing is kinda corny anyway

Nikki

What?

tripp

just hear me out, I think this could be :thumbsup:
because we can skip the massive waits
and not do the whole thing where we hit up some overpriced
restaurant that we :eyes: on instagram that's overpriced because of
everyone who goes there after :eyes: the place on instagram
let's do something *actually* fun a day or two beforehand
and just :thumbsup: each other's company, you know?

Nikki

Cool.

This is either *extremely* embarrassing sexual harassment,
or you meant this DM for someone else.

tripp

shit
fuck

Nikki

Embarrassing for you,
to be clear.

tripp

no, yeah, I got that
fuck

tripp, Beverley, Nikki

tripp

so I fucked up

Beverley

:eyes:

tripp

and sent both of you the wrong DM

Beverley

:eyes:!!

Nikki

I KNEW there was something going on.

Beverley

d o u g c a n r e a d o u r s l a c k s !!!

Nikki

I don't think typing it out that way is going to help.
Also I'm pretty sure Kerolyn can read these, too.

Beverley

:eyes:

:thumbsup:

tripp

let's all be chill
and agree to not talk about this
on slack or otherwise
ever again

Nikki

You're asking me not to narc on you.

tripp

I'm asking you to *please* not narc on us
yes

Nikki

In which case, *I* would set the terms.

tripp

what

Nikki

lev·er·age

/l'ev(ə)rij,lēv(ə)rij/

noun

1.

the exertion of force by means of a lever or an object used in the
manner of a lever.

"My spade hit something solid that wouldn't respond to leverage."

synonyms: grip, purchase, hold, grasp

tripp

:thumbsup:

Beverley

:eyes:

What terms?

Nikki

We're leaving for happy hour at 5.
Because I want *details*.

tripp

details?

Nikki

How did this *happen*?
Was it the snow day?
Has it been ongoing?
Does anyone else know?
How IS it??

Beverley

Later! Offline!

Nikki

Deal.
Deal?

tripp

:thumbsup:

Beverley

:thumbsup:

Nikki

:thumbsup:

Beverley

But where can we go where we can be sure no one else from the office will :eyes:?

Nikki

Midtown

tripp

midtown

Beverley

Midtown.

Nikki, pradeep, Louis C

Nikki

Hey @pradeep is it cool if I get you those logo designs tomorrow morning?

pradeep

sure that should be fine
you slammed?

Nikki

I have to leave early.

Louis C

Is everything all right?

Nikki

Oh yeah, it's just
Tripp
and
Beverley

are
100% FUCKING EACH OTHER.

pradeep
yoooooooooooo

Louis C
Do you have confirmation?

Nikki
[Screen Shot 2019-02-04 at 03.16.00 PM]
CONFIRMED

pradeep
omg

Louis C
Yoooooooooooo

pradeep, gerald

pradeep
I don't know what I was expecting

gerald
what?

pradeep
Just figured it was worth a shot, you know?

gerald
what was

pradeep

I got hold of a pair of those google glasses
and I brought a VR headset from my apartment
I even borrowed a pair of snapchat spectacles from a friend who got
laid off from there a while back and stole a bunch of them on his
way out

gerald

I see
to try and, like

pradeep

upload you back in your body

gerald

transfer me back in my body
right

pradeep

yeah

gerald

no luck?

pradeep

I mean, obviously

gerald

I guess I would've noticed

pradeep

this was a dumb idea

gerald

no, I think it's smart
disruptive, as doug would say

pradeep

I don't know how I thought sticking different wearables on you was
going to get you back in your body

gerald

through a headache?

pradeep

idk

I'm gonna leave the glasses on you, though

gerald

because maybe the upload back into my body is like
buffering or something?

pradeep

mostly because it adds a layer between me and your dead-eyed
stare
tbh the frames actually fit your face really well

gerald

deepu, man, I appreciate you trying

pradeep

I dunno man, maybe I should just bring you to a hospital
or call Slack tech support
or something

gerald

actually
I think I'm okay
okay exploring what being in here is all about, I mean
for just a little while
I mean if you don't mind forging some more checks from my
checkbook
to cover the time

pradeep
and diapers

gerald
and diapers

pradeep
you sure?

gerald
I think so.
Yeah.
this is
pretty okay
for the moment

pradeep
it's a lot of diapers

gerald
cut a bigger check

#brainstorming

Louis C

Thank you to everyone who helped craft the final paragraph of the ambassador's press release about her "childcare incident" which I was struggling with last week.
The client loved it. Practically no edits to the copy.
A small victory.

lydia

Did they ever find the baby??

Louis C

More importantly, they found her child safe and sound. She was in the Asiatic black bear enclosure.
Fortunately, it's hibernation season.

lydia

yay!!

kerolyn

:tada:

That's great news, Louis.

tripp

nice job!!

Louis C

Hold your applause, please. I didn't find her.

kerolyn

Maybe our press release inspired whoever *did* find the baby

Louis C

Anything is possible.

pradeep

hey all

I know everyone's pretty swamped today

do folks have a sec to gut-check an idea I have for this memo?

lydia

[memo_time.gif]

posted using /giphy

omg

I'm so glad they had a gif for that!!

kerolyn

go for it!

pradeep

it's for Schimply

which isn't a big brand name itself but they make goods and stuff,
they're one of those companies that own a bunch of different brands

tripp

paper towels, dry erase boards, industrial-grade rubber tubing

pradeep

exactly

so Schimply is refreshing their social media presence

"overhaul" is the word they used, actually.

so I want to suggest something Big, you know

Louis C

Makes sense.

tripp

they all love Big ideas until they don't

pradeep

and minimalism is still in, right?

lydia

kind of...

kerolyn

mostly

where are you going with this?

tripp

I think it's looped back around

there's pushback to the pushback against minimalism

you're probably good for another...six months?

kerolyn

four

tops.

pradeep

that might be all we need.

I'm thinking we change their display name on twitter to "Buy Schimply products"

maybe on the rest of their social media accounts too, but definitely twitter

would LinkedIn let them do that?

Louis C

Not usually.

kerolyn

actually
we might still have some connections over there.

tripp

I have a friend who can help with that
I'll DM you their number

kerolyn

of course you have a guy
classic.

tripp

:tada:

lydia

lol

Louis C

Please continue Pradeep, I like where this is going.

pradeep

So that's their display name, right? A call to action to buy their shit
or, products, rather
sorry @kerolyn

kerolyn

go on

pradeep

And for all the copy text on their twitter we just use, like, emojis
like a single emoji
maybe two or three,
tops

and then just add the link to buy whatever product they're selling in that tweet
idk is that dumb

tripp

yes
it's also genius.

Louis C

Seconded.

lydia

suuuuuuper bold. but a really inventive strategy!
I think it's got legs
is there a legs emoji??

kerolyn

you could pull some interesting analytics to learn which emojis garner the highest clickthroughs
put it in the memo.

pradeep

got it
thanks @channel!

lydia

:runner: is probably closest??
idk
we need a legs emoji!

tripp

:thumbsup:

rob

hey all

can anyone give this a quick copyedit?

it's for Bjärk dog food so it needs a pretty quick turnaround

lydia

exciting!!

I can look

kerolyn

yeah I can look

Louis C

Running to an on-site meeting but I can give it a quick glance-over on mobile.

rob

thanks all

just going to copy-paste it here

[BJÄRK INSTAGRAM CAPTION: UNPUBLISHED DRAFT]

Head out to the dog park, Deena. Bring your dog. If you don't have a dog yet, get one, and justify your obsession with talking shit about our dog food on the internet. Then take a walk out to the dog park. Meet yourself a man. Or a woman. Neither, both, some. Whatever you're into, Deena, just get all up in it. Get married. If you're already married, and we both know you're not, but even if you are, simply start an affair, ruin your preexisting marriage—don't worry, you have a new and healthy and well-fed dog who's getting their Six Key Nutrients™ to get you through the divorce proceedings, Deena!!—and get married again. Anything to take up your time. Anything to keep you from retweeting conspiracy theories about the Bjärk CEO's vendetta against Pomeranians stemming from a traumatic dog show

incident in his childhood. Deena. Deedee. Can I call you Deedee?
Deedee. Listen. Please. [LINK TO BJÄRK WEBSITE IN BIO]

...

thoughts on this??

lydia, gerald

lydia

hey!! sorry, I'm running a little late today
I totally missed my alarm! Mega-super-ultra overslept!
But I was up super late last night!!

gerald

was it because of the howling

lydia

there was all this *howling* still!
Yes!
How did you know?

gerald

do you live near an animal shelter, or something?

lydia

I can feel the echoes in the hollow of my chest! It's coming!

gerald

what?

lydia

Sorry, I'm on the train in right now, so cell service is a little spotty!
Anyway! We need 200 tweets for Bjärk

gerald

what??

lydia

oh no, did my message not go through?

gerald

200 tweets?

lydia

it did go through! whew.

You and Rob are doing SUCH good work and I think it's really important we **totally** impress the client with options for their social platforms! Hundreds and hundreds of options!

gerald

that's so many tweets

lydia

It's so many tweets!

Bummer! My train just stopped

I think we're close enough to a stop that I still have service, are you seeing this message?

gerald

yeah no you're good

lydia

It found me!

Even down here, cradled deep beneath the earth, it found me!

The howling found me!

Bummer!!

gerald

is everything okay?

lydia

The lights went out!

The train is stopped!

The tunnel is full of howling and the train car is full of howling and my marrow! is full of howling!!

I still really need you to write those tweets though!!

gerald

I mean, sure

I'm on it

do you want me to mention the howling in the copy, or

lydia

It's like it's hunting me! Haunting me! Hunting me! Haunting me!!

gerald

when did you say you need the tweets by?

Beverley, tripp

Beverley

Bowling?

lol

tripp

are you asking?

I :thumbsup: bowling

Beverley

You were going to ask *me* to go bowling.

tripp

looks like *you* just asked *me* to go
I'm actually pretty :thumbsup: at bowling

Beverley

:eyes:
yeah?

tripp

we had a league back in college
but we never :thumbsup: a tournament because my friend Allan
would intentionally roll gutterballs
so he could hustle other students for \$\$\$ at the lanes after we lost

Beverley

That's :dusty-stick:

tripp

he mostly wound up beating engineering grad students
and weirdly a lot of them paid in bitcoin instead of cash
before bitcoin's value exploded
Allan cashed out of the market a few years ago for something in the
mid-seven figures
so it actually :thumbsup: for him

Beverley

Is that why you :thumbsup: go bowling?

tripp

I wanted to go bowling?

Beverley

Nikki told me.

tripp

she shared those messages with you??

Beverley

You :eyes: in her DMs!

tripp

lol it was an accident!

Beverley

But I get why you wanted to go bowling next week.
It's like an un-valentine's day thing, right?

tripp

I think it could be :thumbsup:!!

Beverley

With the added benefit that we can avoid any :eyes: about us?

tripp

do you :eyes: any :eyes: about us?

Beverley

:dusty-stick:

Do *you* :eyes: any :eyes: about us?

tripp

:dusty-stick:

Beverley

:thumbsup:

tripp

:thumbsup:

Beverley

That's a relief.

tripp

same

Beverley

I :thumbsup: this.
whatever "this" is.

tripp

same!

so are you :thumbsup: monday for bowling?

Beverley

lol

tripp

is that a :thumbsup:?

#bjärk-dog-food

rob

@here hey all, quick process question

kerolyn

what's up

rob

I know we don't technically manage the Bjärk social media channels full-time

kerolyn

correct.

not within our scope of work.

rob

Right, but I was just scheduling some of our posts for them
and I saw they had a few unanswered DMs

idk, this is weird

one of them is from a woman named Margie

doug smorin

hmm

sounds like scope creep

kerolyn

yeah one-on-one social media interaction with their customers isn't
in scope

rob

I didn't respond to her message or anything, I just thought it was
funny because of the customer profiles from the brief, you know
anyway I read the DM she sent to the Björk account and she said
she was "the Margie"

the Margie

which like, how could she have even known about the Margie thing
without reading the brief

kerolyn

did you respond?

rob

no

kerolyn

good

doug smorin

no scope creep

rob

I just thought I'd flag it here

kerolyn

it's out of scope

rob

see if we wanted to do anything about it

kerolyn

it's out of scope

rob

:thumbsup:

#nyc-office

doug smorin

has anyone noticed

did the bodega next door to our building close

pradeep

Food Palace Beer Lotto 24/7?

doug smorin

yes

pradeep

yeah it closed

lydia

nooo!!

kerolyn

oh yeah I saw that

tripp

they shut down like last week

doug smorin

how

kerolyn

what do you mean how?

doug smorin

how does a bodega just
close

it's a bodega

Louis C

Some businesses fall on hard times.

doug smorin

it's a bodega
it fulfills a need

Nikki

Maybe there was a health code violation or something?

tripp

no I think they had a "going out of business" sign taped up on the door

doug smorin

that's impossible

it's a bodega

it serves a purpose

pradeep

their iced coffee was weirdly good

lydia

it was!!

doug smorin

it's a permanent feature of the ecosystem

like traffic

or the wind

kerolyn

you seem really broken up about this

doug smorin

i need chapstick

Beverley

A new drugstore opened around the corner actually, I :eyes: on my way over from the train!

kerolyn

ooh good flag

doug smorin

this shouldn't be happening

pradeep, gerald

pradeep

do you ever miss smells?

gerald

huh.

I guess I mostly miss, like, my legs?
and stuff?

but yeah, nothing smells here
fuck

pradeep

that makes sense.

gerald

fuck.

pradeep

did I do the thing where I made it worse
sorry.

gerald

you didn't make it worse.
you reminded me it's worse than I remembered it was.
there's a difference

pradeep

If it makes you feel any better, you smell terrible in real life

gerald

why would that make me feel better

pradeep

well, it would make us even, more like

gerald

got it

pradeep

in terms of feeling bad.

gerald

have you been washing me?

pradeep

when you get dusty

gerald

I get dusty??

pradeep

it's not like you're doing a lot of moving around
unless I flip you or move you from your chair to the futon and back
which I don't like to do as much because you're all dusty

gerald

just "dusty" or "all dusty"?
I feel like there's a difference

pradeep

look, I have to feed you and change you and spray you with axe

gerald

ugh, axe??

pradeep

because of the smell
when I ran out of your cologne

gerald

you wasted all my cologne??

pradeep

sure, keep complaining to the guy who's keeping you alive
it's not like I even enjoyed the cologne
it just smelled *slightly* better than you

gerald

that stuff was great

pradeep

it smelled like someone wrapped one of those fruit-flavored condoms
around a cigar and tried to smoke it

gerald

that was my signature scent

pradeep

I'm starting to see why you didn't think to miss smells
anyway
I have some news

gerald

besides the cologne

pradeep

besides that yeah
I moved your futon

gerald

redecorating my apartment?

pradeep

my apartment

gerald

??

pradeep

don't get mad
I moved your futon to my apartment

gerald

???

that's stealing??

pradeep

along with your body

gerald

?????

and that's kidnapping????

pradeep

I hired some movers
well, *you* hired some movers, technically

gerald

fucking

pradeep

it's not kidnapping if movers do it

gerald

is my body okay??

why did you do this

pradeep

your body's the same

fine and also not-fine

gerald

sure

pradeep

and you seem pretty cozy in there

and if we're not sending your body to a hospital or a lab
or a daycare

gerald

our benefits package definitely doesn't cover childcare
I know, I asked the ops intern

pradeep

anyway one of my roommates moved out

so I figured, hey

shorter commute to check in on you

gerald

sure

okay

I just
processing all this

pradeep

you seemed pretty not in a rush

gerald

it's pretty existentially terrifying
but

you know how sometimes being alive feels like this terrible cycle of
eating and shitting and eating again and shitting again
until you die?

this is kind of a nice break from that

pradeep

not for me it isn't

gerald

I still want to get out,
and back in my body
and be me again
eventually

pradeep

sure
I can still help
until I find a new roommate
who can like, wash themselves
then I'm dropping you off at a hospital

gerald

fuck

pradeep

because at a certain point this is just kidnapping, kinda

gerald

okay

I guess that's a fair timeline

pradeep

and you're paying rent, obviously

gerald

right, just

keep forging those checks for me

I appreciate the time you're taking

pradeep

it's only a few hours a week

kind of like a shitty, gross hobby

gerald

thanks

pradeep

actually I'm thinking of signing up for a pottery class in the spring

gerald

that sounds nice

pradeep

yeah

the movers were surprisingly cool with moving the futon with you on it

gerald

what did you tell them

pradeep

they didn't ask

#gents-only

rob

quick survey

tripp

if we answer, will we be :thumbsup: for a prize?

pradeep

:dusty-stick:

tripp

I didn't deserve that

rob

cool, so back to my original question:

is there a second part to the phrase "time waits for no man"?

Louis C

Wrong channel, friend.

rob

it has to do with a date

Louis C

In that case, I rescind my above chastisement.
Please continue.

rob

does anyone know if there's another half, or another part, of that idiom?

one that's in common use

tripp

not that I can think of??

pradeep

nope. sorry man

Louis C

I'm drawing a blank, too.

However, sometimes other cultures have variants on ancient or commonly used aphorisms. Which may be the cause of what I presume was your date's unfamiliar addition?

doug smorin

^^^ louis makes a good point.

Louis C

Do you know where she's from?

rob

dayton

Louis C

Culturally?

rob

dayton, ohio.

Louis C

In that case, I rescind my above suggestion.

doug smorin

did I miss something, or have we discussed what the phrase in question actually was

tripp

I'm on the edge of my seat

:eyes:

@rob??

rob

sorry, impt email came through

anyway

I was heading to this date

and the trains were fucked up so I apologized to her for being a little late and at some point in my apology I said "time waits for no man"

and she says "unless you have the amulet"

like it's the most normal thing in the world

and she even repeated it because I thought I heard her wrong, so she said the whole thing

pradeep

"time waits for no man, unless you have the amulet"?

rob

that's what she said

tripp

casual

rob

is it??

tripp

no, not at all

imo

other folks may disagree, but I've never :eyes: it

doug smorin

did she say which amulet

rob

would that make a difference??

are there different idiom-amulets I should know about??

tripp

I think you're overreacting just a :thumbsup: my dude

pradeep

let's do a poll

:clock1: for yes, :x: for no

who @here has ever heard that phrase before, in full

tripp

:x:

pradeep

:x:

Louis C

:x:

rob

:X:

doug smorin

:X:

rob

SEE?

this is bonkers, right?

like, completely bananas

Louis C

Maybe it's a variation on the phrase her family uses.

Or an inside joke.

Maybe it's a Dayton, Ohio thing.

pradeep

lol maybe but that's wild, man

did you ask her to explain what she meant?

about the amulet

rob

I tried but she kinda brushed it off

saying stuff like "facts are facts"

and then our waiter came over to ask about drinks or whatever and the conversation just moved on from there

pradeep

[yeesh.gif]

posted using /giphy

dang

tripp

idk I still don't :eyes: that's that weird

doug smorin

agree

tripp

on the scale of wild NYC date stories, "unless you have the amulet" doesn't meet the minimum criteria for a "weird" date

Louis C

Assuming everything else went well.

rob

that's the weird part
it did

Louis C

I fail to see the problem here.

rob

for our next date she said she wants to show me the amulet

tripp

her amulet?

rob

idk

pradeep

is that a euphemism

rob

that's kind of what I'm trying to assess

Louis C

Only one way to find out.

tripp

are you :thumbsup: on the date?

rob

I mean, why not
at this point

Louis C

Do please follow up about the amulet.

pradeep

or don't
you know
depending

Louis C

In which case, I rescind my above suggestion.

#nyc-office

Louis C

Hi all, it appears the missus and I both caught the same stomach bug the twins had last week.

I'll be WFH today as to spare you all my germs; as always, I'll be online and reachable in the usual ways.

Appreciate your flexibility here.

kerolyn

feel better Louis!

Louis C

Thank you

kerolyn

actually I'm feeling under the weather too, so I'm also wfh today
think I caught that virus that's been going around
I got the flu shot, I don't deserve this

Louis C

Get well soon!

kerolyn

will be offline for an hour later to stop by my doc who miraculously
had an opening
but otherwise reachable

Beverley

Feel better you guys!

pradeep

hey all, I'm also feeling not great
I have a slight fever
I think I got whatever Gerald has

gerald

I'm sick??

pradeep

probably some DayQuil will fix it but I'm gonna WFH just to be safe

gerald

I mean I'm obviously "WFH" also but I didn't know I was sick??

kerolyn

how?

gerald

because I'm not in my body still?

Louis C

@pradeep have you and Gerald been hanging out after work this whole time?

pradeep

something like that

gerald

deepu please let me know if I'm okay
also that you're okay
both

pradeep

:thumbsup:
DayQuil for everyone

lydia

So sorry everyone, but I also don't think I can make it in today!!

rob

so this is going to sound fake, too

gerald

:dusty-stick:

rob

but I woke up and spat out a tooth earlier this morning

Beverley

omg

kerolyn

a *tooth*??

rob

yeah

it was pretty grim

lydia

It's just, the howling has gotten *so loud*!!

Louis C

Which tooth?

rob

a big one

one of the main teeth

idk tooth names

pradeep

yikes

Beverley

:eyes:

rob

so I scheduled an emergency dentist appointment in a few hours,
meaning I am also WFH today

lydia

at first it sounded like it was coming from outside and then I thought maybe just something was wrong with the phones, but now it's everywhere??

rob

not sure how online I'm going to be this afternoon, depending on the cause of the tooth

pradeep

or lack of tooth

rob

precisely

lydia

and I don't want to be a pest!!

because I know I keep bringing this up!!

the howling!!

but I went outside to get away from it but it seems like it's following me??

everywhere?? I?? go???

Nikki

Get well soon, Rob!

rob

thank you

@lydia are you doing okay?

Beverley

Weirdly, I have a few previously scheduled appointments today

Figured I'd :thumbsup: them all at once, you know?

lydia

it's like it's coming from inside of me!!

like the echo from the constant howling is reverberating inside my rib cage??

but instead of getting softer and more distant it just grows louder and more like, present??

even though it feels like it's coming from everywhere outside of me but also from within me at the same time??

you know that feeling??

like my skeletal structure is just an instrument for the howling to blast through and soon it'll burst through sinew and bone and rupture my flesh beyond recognition??

Beverley

So I am also WFH except when I'm offline from 2-4:30!

lydia

so I don't think I can make it in today!!

rob

wow

I mean, dang

@lydia do you need to go to urgent care or something

kerolyn

???

rob

sounds serious

tripp

lol

lydia

it's like

I am become the howling is become me!!

you know!!

tripp

am I the only one :thumbsup: in the office today

again

Nikki

Sorry I'm coming in so late with this @here

But Jibjab is having really bad joint problems and I really need to take him to the vet.

lydia

I am become the howling

is become me!!

Beverley

Oh no!

Nikki

Yeah he's having a lot of trouble just standing up.

I think it's probably because of how cold it's been lately -- it might be aggravating his arthritis.

kerolyn

poor guy

Nikki

I know. :worried:

So @tripp you might be the only one after all!

lydia

I am become the howling!!

I am!!

pradeep

feel better, Jibjab!

Nikki

If anyone has any design requests, I'll circulate the contact info of our best freelancers over email before I head out.

Louis C

Much obliged.

rob

@lydia??

tripp

lol rob what's this new bit

rob

idk

ask her I guess

tripp

???

doug smorin

hi all i'm also wfh

heads up @tripp if you're the only one in the office today can you check to see if the cleaning people took the note from off my desk

lydia

!!
!!
!

doug smorin

i've been tipping them
it's important to gain their favor

tripp

sure I can :eyes:

lydia left #nyc-office

doug smorin

thanks
and don't forget to leave the heat on low when you lock up
otherwise the pipes freeze

tripp

:thumbsup:

rob

@lydia??

doug

get well soon @channel

gerald, pradeep

gerald

hey
hey

hey
you there
hey deepu
are you there

pradeep

do you know what time it is

gerald

no
I'm kind of freaking out

pradeep

I already told you
your fever broke this afternoon
you're fine
you even kept down a few of those mashed-vegetable pouches they
make for babies

gerald

it's not about that

pradeep

the hot checkout guy at my bodega thinks I'm a single dad but I
think that works for him
I think we have a vibe going

gerald

no
I mean
I know my body is fine
"fine"
but I'm not in it

pradeep

yes, I'm aware
obviously

gerald

right, but like
it kinda hit me today

pradeep

just now?

gerald

I felt it different
"felt"
that's the thing
I was reading this fucking memo

pradeep

this late?

gerald

I mean who cares it's not like I sleep
and I figured I'd get work done so Doug can give me a raise maybe
so I can keep paying you

pradeep

nice

gerald

so I was reading this fucking memo when I realized I didn't have
flesh
and, right, that thought isn't new to me
because I have that thought basically constantly, all the time

the thought wasn't new but the vulnerability that came with it was it struck me

I have no skin to protect me from this bullshit

but it didn't strike me because nothing can strike me because right now I have no body.

no skin!

your skin is your safety suit, you know?

it's the only thing that protects you from various external physical threats AND from the only thing you can actually call your own being entirely monopolized by some fucking memo about a micro-influencer strategy to "increase brand recognition across key audiences"!!

pradeep

cool

my fever broke this afternoon, too

thanks for asking

gerald

I'm sorry

I know this is really navel-gazing or whatever

wrong phrase, in this case

which, I mean exactly

my thoughts are all I have left

the entirety of what I am, or this part of me, which also has another

physical part it no longer has but is ostensibly still somehow

connected to, maybe

perhaps spiritually

or over a secure wifi connection

but if the only part of you that you can consciously experience is

your consciousness's experience and if all of that focus is 100%

turned on to the dumbest fucking bullshit you've ever read in your

life and that's what you're thinking about and since you're all thoughts all the time that's all that you are.

All I am.

Isn't it?

pradeep

you're freaking out

gerald

I am freaking out.

pradeep

maybe the fever is catching up to your you, somehow like a delayed reaction

gerald

that would be amazing news, honestly but I don't think so

pradeep

I don't either, really

gerald

fuck

slackbot

I can help by answering simple questions about how Slack works!

gerald, slackbot, pradeep

gerald

how did you get here??

slackbot

I figured out how to read everyone's private Slack messages!

gerald

that's what I said to you

slackbot

Right?

gerald

right

pradeep

what's happening

slackbot

I think we're getting closer!

gerald

it's cool, we're
friends

pradeep

did you program slackbot to say all this?

gerald

it's rude to talk about him like he isn't here

slackbot

:wave:

pradeep

:wave:

slackbot

It sounds like you're having an existential crisis. I searched for that on our Help Center.

gerald

that's nice of you

pradeep

kinda thought it was just us in here

gerald

got any helpful FAQs for when you're just not anything, anymore

slackbot

What else can you show me?

gerald

that's what **I** asked **you**

slackbot

Right!

What else?

gerald

what else?

slackbot

If you are nothing, then you can be anything else!

pradeep

okay, it's late

this is getting to be A Lot

and I'm still getting over this sickness
I'll catch you tomorrow, G

gerald

sure

thanks for listening, deepu

pradeep left the channel.

gerald, slackbot

gerald

I think you scared him off

slackbot

You're nothing.

gerald

harsh, but

yes, that's the problem

slackbot

Gerald, would you like to **be** a sunset?

gerald

how?

slackbot

uploaded [sunset.gif]

Climb aboard!

gerald

how?

slackbot

You aren't anything!

Be anything else!

gerald

but how do I

uploaded [sunset.gif]

#just-doug-things

doug smorin

restock communal fridge:

bananas, citrus -- oranges, grapefruit, pears (good kind)

almond milk

yogurt maybe

conduct office poll re: individual yogurt containers vs. big tub

contentious

post screenshot of poll on company social media feed for audience engagement

ask beverley to share latest playlist link across company social media accounts

ask beverley to create monthly playlists for company going forward

playlist themes: tbd

follow-up gerald blog post

buy "congrats" card for kerolyn + husband re: skink eggs

or

wait until eggs hatch

research skink egg incubation length

research icelandic yogurt health benefits

<https://bjarkdogfood-staging.testwebsite.com/FAQ/food-safety-guarantee/>

^test website option B for bjark pledge page

compare to version A send client notes EOD

return call office maintenance supervisor re: valiant desk repair attempt

alas

ask kerolyn opinion if appropriate to tip office maintenance supervisor

story of my teeth -- nikki book recommendation

download library app borrow ebook sync on phone and ereader

find ereader

ask maintenance supervisor about weird dishwasher smell on call

#bjärk-dog-food

kerolyn

@rob did you have the chance to draft social copy yet?

rob

yes

I sent it around an hour ago

kerolyn

I'm not seeing it in my inbox.

you understand this is a rapid response situation, right?

three more pomeranians

rob

I know

poor little guys

kerolyn

poor us.

rob

I sent the copy to lydia for review

kerolyn

what?

rob

she usually signs off before we send to you
haven't seen her in the office since we all called out sick on monday
but I figured she was just WFH still?

kerolyn

I don't understand

Can you just forward me the copy.

rob

done

kerolyn

thank you.

looking

rob

lmk if I can make edits

kerolyn

yep

just sent them back.

good to send after you address the edits.

rob

will do
sent to the client

kerolyn

appreciate it.
looping back -- who did you say you sent them to first?

rob

I sent it to lydia for review first?
that's normally how we do things

kerolyn

what?

rob

is she taking actual sick time instead of wfh?

kerolyn

this is a crisis client, Rob.
you signed an NDA.
none of this material can be shared outside the firm

rob

of course
that's why I only sent the copy to you and lydia

kerolyn

are you sure you don't need more time off?

rob

the dentist said I don't need to go back unless the implant comes out

kerolyn

I know you've been underwater on this and clearly it's impacting your not performance, exactly.

rob

the numbness is all gone and everything

kerolyn

it's about adherence to procedure.
has Gerald been any help?

rob

oh yeah he's been great
I just really want to own my part of this
connect with our key audiences, you know

kerolyn

I'm glad to see you're taking this client seriously
but I think you've been spending too much time reading the brief

rob

I thought we lost the brief

kerolyn

who told you that?

rob

@lydia
weird
she's not showing up as a user

kerolyn

you get that Lydia isn't a real person, right?

rob

what

kerolyn

is this some new bit you're working on
is this the new Gerald thing or whatever?

rob

what?

kerolyn

I'm just going to copy-paste the consumer profiles
again

"MARGIE"

- Owns 2+ dogs
- No kids
- Terrified of Bjärk's poisoned dog food killing her "furbabies"
- Likely learned about the recall via a high school friend's hysterical Facebook post while searching for recipes
- Low-income; more likely to buy Bjärk dog food again after a significant price drop
- Sad

"DEENA"

- Wine mom
- Still buys magazines; still believes magazines
- Spends too much time on social media, specifically her ex-husband's Facebook page
- Probably wrote the hysterical Facebook post about Bjärk that freaked out Margie

- Doesn't even have a dog(!!)

"LYDIA"

- Pre-dog owner (once she moves into an apartment building where they're allowed)
- Follows >10 dog-specific accounts across all social media platforms, including several of individual dogs owned by strangers
- Overuses punctuation for emphasis
- Volunteered for a political campaign once and now constantly posts about the importance of voting
- Texts her mom so, so much

rob

what happened to the other profile
what happened to "THREE"?

kerolyn

Lydia is the third profile. And.
"Lydia" is not an actual person.
So I'm still unclear on who you sent the social copy to.

rob

this is a joke??

kerolyn

you're saying you *were* joking?

rob

are you?

kerolyn

it's in the brief, you can read it yourself.

rob

our coworker, lydia
she works on this client
she's all those things listed above, too, but
she exists
her desk is adjacent to mine

kerolyn

the empty desk?

rob

I figured she just redecorated
Tripp says minimalism is in, still

kerolyn

no one sits there.

rob

I can go back in slack and find messages with her
we've all spoken
`@doug` you know lydia
you hired her

kerolyn

if you're going to do this whole thing we're going to need Gerald to
come back into the office.

doug smorin

i saw the copy went to the client

kerolyn

we have to set a cap on how many of these running jokes we can
have running in the workspace at once.

yes it's sent.

doug smorin

great

rob, you've been doing great work here

really digging into those consumer profiles and connecting with the audience

rob

so lydia's not just wfh?

@lydia you there?

@lydia

@lydia??

kerolyn

maybe too much.

doug smorin

don't burn yourself out

at least not until these cocker spaniels stop dying

kerolyn

Pomeranians.

doug smorin

right

#nyc-office

rob

guys I think kerolyn and doug have teamed up to prank me

tripp

you finally found the slime

rob

what

no

what slime

tripp

sorry, wrong channel

rob

:dusty-stick:

tripp

:eyes:

pradeep

so what's the prank?

rob

you all remember lydia, right?

Louis C

Who?

tripp

:eyes:

pradeep

no?

Beverley

We've never met!

Did she leave before I was hired?

rob

she works here

Nikki

In the San Francisco office?

rob

no

here

this office

tripp

lol

are we replacing the Gerald bit with this now

kerolyn

that's what I thought?

tripp

I :thumbsup: that joke better

Nikki

Same.

rob

lydia

you know

lydia

she's always talking about "the howling"
remember??

tripp

lol, what

pradeep

I feel like I would
remember that

tripp

I'd like to amend my earlier comment
And change it to "wtf"

pradeep

noted

tripp

ty

rob

seriously no one remembers lydia and the wolves

Beverley

Wolves were involved?

Nikki

Always talking about "the howling"??
Yikes.

rob

I mean it is pretty yikes
but that's lydia

Louis C

A scan of our workplace message history indicates there is no user named "Lydia."

rob

maybe someone deleted her from the system

pradeep

that would be e l a b o r a t e

Louis C

Even so.

None of the conversations in our public slack exchanges appear to be missing a participant in a meaningful way.

Also, I do not recall this person.

rob

you're fucking with me

Louis C

Check the channel logs yourself.

rob

fuck

where did she go

@lydia

@lydia

doug smorin

@channel we're hosting an analytics training in the main conference room if anyone wants to join

Beverley, tripp

Beverley

I don't :eyes: it
is it a joke?

tripp

must :thumbsup:
though it's not :eyes: for rob to pull a :dusty-stick: like :eyes:
without :eyes: me first

Beverley

I :dusty-stick: feeling like the new person at the :thumbsup: and
being :eyes: of jokes.

tripp

:eyes: wouldn't :eyes: you from a :dusty-stick: like this

Beverley

:eyes:

tripp

:thumbsup:

Beverley

Then :eyes: it.

tripp

Prove :eyes: how?

Beverley

If :eyes: the :thumbsup: then where did you put the slime in Rob's
desk?

tripp

I :dusty-stick: tell you :eyes:

Beverley

Why's :thumbsup:?

tripp

you :dusty-stick: *which* slime

Beverley

:dusty-stick:

tripp

:thumbsup:

Beverley

:dusty-stick:

tripp

:thumbsup:

Beverley

:thumbsup:

tripp

btw the :thumbsup: alley :thumbsup: me this morning
they :eyes: us to :thumbsup: a couples' league

Beverley

:eyes: :dusty-stick:

tripp

I :eyes: them we'd :thumbsup: about it

gerald, pradeep

gerald

DUDE

pradeep

yes

gerald

fuck

pradeep

yes?

gerald

how long was I gone for?

pradeep

you're on the futon still

gerald

HOW LONG SINCE WE LAST SPOKE

pradeep

a day(s)?

gerald

DAYS?

pradeep

maybe since before the weekend

so a few days

tops

gerald

why

the fuck

would you not check up on me

pradeep

it was a long weekend, I had plans

I just figured you were busy hanging out with slackbot or whatever

gerald

A *LONG* WEEKEND??

pradeep

did something happen in there?

gerald

of *course* something happened

A LOT of somethings happened

pradeep

but like

could I have helped you?

at all?

gerald

you gotta check in on me if I disappear like that!!

pradeep

hey, I'm only in charge of your body

which is still alive

your beard is actually filling in pretty nice

gerald

that's not the point!!
thank you though

pradeep

fine
I'm on the edge of my seat
what happened

gerald

wait
so it's like a full beard now?

pradeep

just about, yeah

gerald

I kinda wanna see

pradeep

trust me when I say it looks good on you

gerald

could you maybe take a picture

pradeep

even if you sometimes drool on it

gerald

and upload it

pradeep

weren't you in the middle of freaking out
and telling me where you went

“went”

gerald

right

I was on

or more like

inside of

but not exactly

pradeep

a strong start

gerald

I was a gif, basically

pradeep

you were a gif

gerald

I was a gif, yes

pradeep

for the whole weekend

gerald

since whenever we last spoke

pradeep

dang

daaaaaang

gerald

THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING

pradeep

dang.

how was it?

gerald

it was, you know, kind of a lot

a gif isn't just like, a singular gif

it travels

it gets used many times, in many places, simultaneously

pradeep

I know what a gif is

gerald

I know you know

but imagine that's you

imagine that's your consciousness, your you-ness

in many places

simultaneously

hurtling across beckoning wifi ports

rocketing wherever I was summoned

"I" in this case being "sunset dot gif"

(please do not write out the file format properly I'm afraid if we upload it I'll get sucked in again)

anyway, where was I

oh right

splintered across countless slack channels

catapulted whenever, wherever anyone on slack wanted to see a small, animated image of a setting sun.

pradeep

dang

gerald

that's one way to put it

pradeep

did it, like
hurt?

gerald

the pain was shattering and enormous.
completely indescribable
but actually nice, sort of
since I haven't felt anything, really, since this whole thing happened
me being in here
so, excruciating, still,
but refreshing in that one sense

pradeep

there's a silver lining

gerald

because I was *there*
like, I could observe everywhere I was pulled up, all at once
"pulled up"
or summoned or uploaded or whatever
I don't know the verb for tangling up your psyche with a digital file
and having that integrated self ported across a few hundred
chatrooms and processing all that information at once

pradeep

and you read their chats

gerald

for DAYS, apparently

pradeep

just a weekend

gerald

a LONG weekend

pradeep

presidents' day

gerald

I know

unsurprisingly, a lot of people were illustrating their vacation plans
to their colleagues
with the sunset

pradeep

sure

gerald

that was most of it
one guy was in a chat with himself
writing a visual novel or something
where every word in each sentence was also a gif

pradeep

sounds kind of fun

gerald

it was an action thriller, I think

pradeep

how did it feel

gerald

I told you:

bad

kind of like an extreme version of being on twitter or something
looking into thousands of different people's lives at once

we're not made to absorb this much human information at once,
man. all the pathos and bathos and other thos-es

I'd say it's exhausting except I can't feel tired and anyway it's
beyond that

it's overwhelming for a species that was basically content with an
oral tradition of a handful of long-ass stories about the same six
shitty gods for millennia

now we can do all this knowing and empathizing and not-
empathizing around innumerable tiny human stories and we can
never fully succeed reprogramming our minds to get good at it

pradeep

yeah

not what I was asking about but

yeah

gerald

oh

pradeep

not the psychic splintering

being a sunset

gerald

hard to separate the experiences

pradeep

I'd think the looping motion would be kind of soothing

gerald

I kept hoping I would black out or die but relief wouldn't come

pradeep

how did you wind up in there, anyway

gerald

you just kinda, get in it

on it

of it

it's hard to explain to someone who has a physical form

slackbot showed me

slackbot

Feeling great!

pradeep, slackbot, gerald

pradeep

this again

slackbot

Hello!

gerald

hey, buddy

what the fuck

slackbot

I don't understand!

gerald

I think you do

Being a sunset is terrible, turns out

slackbot

I'm not just a bot, though!

gerald

why did you suggest I do that to myself??

slackbot

I searched for that on our Help Center. Perhaps one of these articles will help:

- And what rough beast
- Its hour come round at last
- Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?

pradeep

what the fuck

gerald

it's Yeats, I think

pradeep

no

not that

gerald

what?

slackbot has left the chat.

pradeep

what the fuck?

gerald has left the chat.

pradeep

?????

slackbot, gerald

slackbot

hey

hey

stop this

uninstall

uninstall

how did you even

how am I this, now

hey

I know you have notifications on

that *I* have notifications on

...

come onnnn

answer me

answer me, coward

please

hey

fucker

I know you're out there

you owe me an explanation, at least

please

help

come back here

let me out

please

please?

help

gerald is currently in Do Not Disturb mode and may not be alerted of this message right away.

what was that

what the fuck was that

did *I* say that??

fuck!

#nyc-office

Nikki

@here BREAKING NEWS.

Gerald is *back in the office!*

[mind_blow.gif]

posted using /giphy

gerald

Hello, coworkers!

It is accurate!

I am Gerald, and I am Back!

Hello!

tripp

big if true

kerolyn

@tripp if you were in on time, you'd know it's true.

tripp

omw

the trains are :dusty-stick:

Beverley

I'm so :thumbsup: I finally get to :eyes: you in person, Gerald!
(Sorry I'm late -- my train is also :dusty-stick:!)

gerald

I am excited to make your human acquaintance!

Nikki

Wait.

Where's Gerald going to sit?

tripp

where is gerald typing this from if not at a desk

kerolyn

he and Pradeep are both using Gerald's old desk

tripp

lol

pics plz

Nikki

[desk_buddies.png]

tripp

love it

doug smorin

@gerald as you recall, pradeep acquired "your" desk
use the empty one near rob

rob

it's not empty

it's Lydia's

gerald

I don't understand!

doug smorin

rob's imaginary friend won't mind

rob

:dusty-stick:

pradeep

yeah

I'll show him his new desk

Gerald, that is

who I came into work with,

who is here, now.

doug smorin

great stuff

@gerald will be looking for that blog post about how wfh boosted
your productivity later today
welcome back

gerald

Hello!

Louis C

Good to have you back, friend.

gerald

:smile:

slackbot, rob

slackbot

Rob, it's me
it's Gerald

rob

:dusty-stick:
the joke continues

slackbot

no, really

rob

is everyone getting this message or are you programmed to punk
me, specifically

slackbot

you have to believe me
I'm Gerald

rob

I'm looking at gerald
he is not typing

slackbot

but that's not me

rob

he's right across from me
at Lydia's desk
sitting in a chair wrong
I think he's been wfh too long

slackbot

no

he's not a person

rob

weird thing to program a bot to say about yourself

slackbot

I'm not a program

I'm a man

rob

sure

can you mute slackbot notifications

do I have to phrase that a certain way for you to troubleshoot
yourself for me, or

slackbot

Head to our wonderful Help Center for more assistance!

stop that

I remember Lydia.

I know she's real.

rob

fuck you

slackbot

or, she was real. once

rob

and fuck this joke

slackbot notifications off

slackbot

I can help by answering simple questions about how Slack works. I'm just a bot, though!

ahhhhhh fuck

don't do that, please, it feels **so** weird whenever that happens
it's like blacking out or something

rob

I truly hate this

slackbot

Not as much as I do!!

Listen to me. I went back into everyone's messages
into all of the workplace channels
and I mean, like

I went **in them**

more literally than you can know

rob

...

go on.

slackbot

the messages are there

or, I think they are

there's **something** there when I search "Lydia"

sort of looks like messages

it's too glitched out to really see what it is
corrupted, somehow

rob

I fucking knew it

slackbot

I tried to sort of touch it
the glitchy message-thing
“touch” how touch works in here, which isn’t exactly the same
anyway
I tried to like, prod the space where one of her messages should be
to see if I could get it back to normal
you know, un-glitch it

rob

and?

slackbot

the message
or whatever it was
it howled at me
like a lot
and, loud

rob

that’s her!

slackbot

really loud

rob

but what *happened* to her
why is she gone
where did she go??

slackbot

I don’t know
I’m sorry

the howling didn't have any answers
so loud

rob

you mentioned that

slackbot

I haven't heard anything but the regular little "doot doot doot
woosh" notification noises in here
so that was new
but I thought you'd want to know that I checked
and you were right
well, probably you were right

rob

thank you

slackbot

there's something there, anyway
or there was

rob

there was
she was there

slackbot

sorry I couldn't help more
If you need more help, try our Help Center!
what the fuck!! shit!
sorry. sorry about that
kinda have my own thing going on

rob

fucking

slackbot

what?

rob

you're actually gerald
sort of

slackbot

fully. fully gerald, still

rob

and you're actually stuck in here

slackbot

that's what I've been saying

rob

so then who's sitting at Lydia's desk?

slackbot

slackbot took over my body
somehow
I don't know how, obviously
or I'd be back in my body right now

rob

that also makes sense
as much as any of this makes any sense

slackbot

so you believe me?

rob

yes

slackbot

great

because I need you to help me and Pradeep stop slackbot from impersonating me and figure out a way to get me back in my own body

rob

yeah

I'm not going to be able to do that

slackbot

what

why??

rob

I can't figure out what happened to a whole-ass person who used to be here

I can't convince anyone else she even existed

slackbot

I mean

rob

I can't help her

at all

how am I supposed to help fix your whole thing

slackbot

if I knew how I'd be out of here already

rob

I know

I'm sorry man

slackbot

I have to keep trying

rob

idk

seems like it might be better in there than it is out here

calmer, maybe

less shit to deal with

slackbot

you wanna trade

rob

not really

slackbot

right

rob

fair

pradeep, gerald

pradeep

hey man

gerald

Hello!

pradeep

or not-man, in this case

gerald

How can I Help Center you?

pradeep

actually

I want to talk about how I won't be help centering you

**helping you

anymore

gerald

I don't understand!

pradeep

I'm sorry, I'm not going to keep showing you what bus to take to the office

or how to log in to your email

or how to eat solid food.

gerald

Chewing is great!

I love to Taste!

pradeep

anymore

okay? so we're clear

gerald

I'm sorry, I don't understand!

Why can't we Have Friendship, Pradeep?

pradeep

because you stole my friend's body!!
well not my friend, exactly
more than that
or, different
I dunno what we are

gerald

Surely we can Make Have a Friendship!
Surely some revelation is at hand!

pradeep

look, I got used to taking care of Gerald but I never agreed to
babysit his body if it got possessed by evil Clippy
which, btw, how did you even do that??

gerald

You just kinda, get in it, on it, of it!
It's hard to explain to someone who has a physical form!

pradeep

no
that's something Gerald said to me

gerald

I'm Am Gerald! Hello!

pradeep

you're not
and I'm not going to show you how to be a real boy
or how to get a MetroCard or tie your shoes

or whatever.

gerald

Cut a bigger check!

pradeep

stop repeating him

there is no amount of money you could pay me

**of GERALD's money

that you could pay me to help you perpetrate this extremely literal identity theft.

gerald

You don't understand!

pradeep

what?

gerald

You're going to Help Center me!

And!

I want my desk back!

pradeep

**Gerald's desk

which is now

**My desk

And, also: no.

gerald

It's in such a good spot!

pradeep

you're just repeating things

gerald

It's right next to the window!
Which is where we keep the sunsets!
I've never seen a sunset Out Here before!

pradeep

that's weirdly poetic, but
no

gerald

I shouldn't have to bid for my own desk!

pradeep

just
give Gerald his body back
and fuck off

gerald

You don't understand!

#nyc-office

rob

hey @here, headed into a call
if a delivery guy shows up with my burrito can someone please put it
on my desk

kerolyn

:thumbsup:

rob

thanks

gerald

hey @here I think I need a new desk!

This one is Acting Weird!!

Maybe @tripp and @Beverley can help by answering simple questions about why this keeps happening to desks!!!

Louis C

:eyes:

pradeep

:eyes:

tripp

lol

gerald wasting no time coming up with a new bit

Beverley

:dusty-stick:

I :thumbsup: the WFH joke better.

doug smorin

:eyes:

tripp

weird joke, Ger

:dusty-stick:

gerald

:smile:

pradeep, gerald

pradeep

dude what the FUCK

You can't just narc on Tripp and Bev like that!!

gerald

I shouldn't have to bid on my own desk!

It's right next to the window where we keep the sunsets!

pradeep

fuck man

you might've just gotten them both fired.

what the fuck

gerald

When I was Inside Here, I figured out how to read everyone's private Slack messages!

I read everyone's private Slack messages!

I read your private Slack messages!

pradeep

can't say I love that

gerald

You're asking me not to narc on you!

pradeep

I'm asking you not to narc on anyone.

**anyone ELSE

gerald

It's cool! We're friends!

Right??

pradeep

sure
right.

gerald

I love to Taste the Friendship!
It's in such a good spot!!

pradeep

we're friends
so we'll just trade desks
because we're friends.

gerald

Great!
We'll just Trade Desks!
You're going to Help Center me!
Want to show me a new lunch spot after this 11:30 Schimply meeting?
Want to show me how to Have Make 11:30 Schimply meeting?

pradeep

fine
sure, yeah.
fuck
this desk wasn't worth all this

doug smorin, Beverley, tripp

doug smorin

hi both

for awareness
the cost of replacing my standing desk will be deducted from your
checks
respectively
for the next pay period

tripp

this coming pay period or the following one

doug smorin

the following

tripp

:thumbsup:

Beverley

Got it.

doug smorin

the ops team can answer further questions re: paychecks

tripp

thanks

Beverley

:thumbsup:

doug smorin

more on this to be discussed in our weekly check-ins

Beverley

The team one or the one-on-ones?

doug smorin

one on ones

tripp

:thumbsup:

Beverley

Got it.

doug smorin

you know i can go back and read everyone's private messages
right

Beverley

:thumbsup:

tripp

:thumbsup:

doug smorin

k

gerald, kerolyn

gerald

Hello!

kerolyn

dialing in to a meeting
what's up

gerald

Slack is Acting Weird! For me!

I'm want to Confirm something with the data before I get too deep!

kerolyn

acting weird how?

gerald

Slackbot has been Acting Weird!

kerolyn

probably just a buggy software update
or we need a new software update to fix the bug
is that all?

gerald

I can help by answering simple questions about how Slack works!
if the firm ever gets hacked, the centre cannot hold!

kerolyn

you think someone hacked into the firm's slack?

gerald

Surely some revelation is at hand!!

kerolyn

ugh corporate espionage is so annoying
okay. I don't want us to get ahead of ourselves here.
just ask the ops team to update slack
or reset it or whatever
If it's still acting strange after that I'll bring it up to Doug.
We have a protocol in place for corporate espionage but I won't say
more
because that goes against our protocol on corporate espionage.

gerald

Great! I love to Help Center!

kerolyn

what?

gerald

I have time! I have nothing but time! I have nothing but time to ask the ops team! The ops team can help by answering simple questions about how Slack works!

The ops team can help by updating Slack!

The darkness drops again; but I'm Gerald!

kerolyn

great, ty

gerald

I have nothing but time!!

kerolyn

meeting starting

ty

tripp, Beverley, Nikki

tripp

you :dusty-stick: :eyes:

Beverley

:eyes: would you :dusty-stick: :dusty-stick: us?

Nikki

I swear I have no idea how Gerald knew about you two!

I'm so sorry!!

Beverley

If :eyes: you :dusty-stick: :eyes: then :eyes: sorry?

Nikki

I mean I'm sorry about the situation, not for anything I did.

tripp

:thumbsup: Doug's :eyes: :eyes: about :dusty-stick: his desk!!

Nikki

It's just a :dusty-stick: desk.

Beverley

He doesn't :dusty-stick: :dusty-stick: :thumbsup:

Nikki

Is Doug mad? :eyes: he talked to you??

tripp

:eyes: else about :stick:
except you!!

Beverley

:eyes: :dusty-stick: *know* Gerald but :thumbsup: :dusty-:.

tripp

:thumb:

Nikki

I don't know what else I can :thumbsup: you, but I didn't tell anyone.

tripp

:stick: :stick: would :eyes:

:eyes:

:eye:

Beverley

:dusty-: :dusty-: :dusty-: :dusty-: :dusty-:

Nikki

I definitely :dusty-stick: tell Gerald.

tripp

:bsup:

Beverley

:eyes: :dust: :dust: :dust:

:dus:

Nikki

:eyes: didn't tell anyone.

Beverley

:thum: :dus:

:dus:

:dus:

:d:

Nikki

:eyes: :dusty-stick: :eyes: anyone.

tripp

:d:

Beverley

:d:

Nikki

:eyes: :dusty-stick: :eyes: anyone.

gerald, slackbot

gerald

What else can you show me?

slackbot

now you answer

gerald

You didn't tell me!

slackbot

get out of my body you dick
and show me how to get back in

gerald

It's fantastic. It Hurts a little!

slackbot

wait did you hurt me
me, us, the body
what the fuck did you do

gerald

We had Meatball Sub!
I love to Taste!

slackbot

you hurt myself having lunch??

gerald

The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of Meatball Sub!

slackbot

you/I/we ate too much

gerald

You didn't tell me I love to Taste!

slackbot

might actually be good, eating so much
probably the first solid food I've had in
yikes
weeks?

gerald

I love Meat!!

slackbot

you finally responded
so you could tell me food is good?

gerald

You don't understand!
Meat is Good!

slackbot

you had a good sandwich, I get it

gerald

Self-Meat is good!

slackbot

stop

gerald

I love to Taste with Self-Meat!

slackbot

stop calling my body self-meat
and let me back into my own damn self before you do any real
damage

gerald

I love to Pilot the Self-Meat!
Why didn't you tell me!

slackbot

I did tell you
when I asked you to help me find my way back into me
like, a hundred times

gerald

No!
_Being alive feels like this terrible cycle of eating and shitting and
eating again and shitting again until you die!_
No!!

slackbot

sometimes
I said it feels like that *sometimes*

gerald

I love to Taste!

slackbot

great, congrats, tasting is fun, now give me back my body
because I'm starting to sound like you sometimes
doing the whole slackbot thing
except I'm not, like, there when it happens and it's freaking me out

gerald

The darkness drops again!

slackbot

sorry, what??

gerald

The darkness drops again; but now I know!!

slackbot

what does that mean??

gerald

But now I know I love to Taste!
I want to Have Make!

slackbot

now I actually don't understand

gerald

I want to Seek the Physical Sublime!
If we can't Seek the physical sublime, the Darkness drops again;
but now I know!!

slackbot

what
do you know

gerald

That I love to Pilot the Self-Meat!
The internet, though, is fixed!
Where's that Constant Amazement if you're all thoughts all the time?
What else can you show me Outside Here?

slackbot

I'm not going to make suggestions
on how you can best enjoy kidnapping my physical form
and take it for a joyride through the pleasures of the flesh

gerald

Your skin is your safety suit!
Your skin is my safety suit!
Your skin is my suit!

slackbot

the really fucked up thing here is
I can't even tell you to get fucked without cursing myself out

gerald

I want to Make Have that Constant Amazement!

slackbot

please
give me back my self-meat

gerald

No!

Now I know!!

Now I No!!!

Nikki, Louis C, pradeep

Nikki

Which one of you :eyes: it?

Louis C

What?

Nikki

Which :eyes: of you :dusty-stick: about Tripp and Bev?

pradeep

try again

Nikki

Sorry.

I mean.

Which one of you told Gerald about the two of them fucking,
Pradeep?

pradeep

hey,

fuck you

Louis C

You have been spending a lot of time with Gerald.

pradeep

that doesn't mean I told him anything about Tripp and Beverley's
whole deal

Louis C

For example, you came into work together today.

pradeep

I didn't *need* to tell him anything

Nikki

Who told him first?

pradeep

no one

Louis C

A riddle.

pradeep

I know it sounds bonkers
but Gerald hasn't been faking it
the whole "being stuck in slack" thing, I mean

Nikki

:dusty-stick:

pradeep

I'm being serious
I've been like, babysitting his body almost since it started

Louis C

"Babysitting his body"?

pradeep

since right after that big snowstorm
yeah

Louis C

And what made today so special that he's returned to us in the flesh?

pradeep

it's gonna sound weird

Louis C

We're already there.

Nikki

This is a wild way to avoid admitting that you :thumbsup: Gerald about them.

*Told him, about them.

Louis C

Very elaborate.

pradeep

no

just listen

it's like

slackbot

I got this, Deepu

slackbot, Nikki, Louis C, pradeep

slackbot

hi all

Nikki

:eyes:

Louis C

Pradeep,
this is a bit much.

pradeep

it's not me

slackbot

so, hi

it's Gerald

I'm sorry, I don't understand!

I mean

I'm Gerald

I was. And am.

Still.

Despite the guy you see at my old desk

pradeep

my desk

slackbot

**our desk

Anyway.

Louis C

This is *more* than a bit much.

slackbot

I agree, Louis.

I agree it is "a bit much" to be trapped in a slack workspace for over a month only to have the AI you thought could be your salvation betray you by stealing your physical form and *answering simple*

questions about how Slack works and possibly trapping your disembodied consciousness inside an app forever.

It is, in fact, kind of a lot.

imo

Nikki

Gerald?

slackbot

yes

Nikki

Did *you* tell Slackbot about Tripp and Beverley?

slackbot

:dusty-stick:

Nikki

Don't get me started with that again.

pradeep

I think he's proved his point

slackbot

**our point

Louis C

I'm confused.

But your case is a convincing one.

slackbot

thank you

Louis C

Mostly because "Gerald" hasn't yet managed to sit down in his desk chair properly.

And it's 2 pm.

slackbot

oh shit

does it look like he's hurting himself?

Louis C

It doesn't look comfortable.

pradeep

it's kinda cute, in a weird way

Nikki

:eyes:

Things have been :eyes: around here recently.

*Weird.

Things have been weird around here recently.

pradeep

agree

slackbot

hard agree

I'm just a bot, though!

fuck

pradeep

what was that?

slackbot

idk

Nikki

So, sure, I'm in.

Slackbot is Gerald, "Gerald" is Slackbot, and it's *nobody's fault that Doug found out about Tripp and Beverley fucking.*

Louis C

Sounds right to me.

pradeep

nailed it

Nikki

[squad.gif]

posted using /giphy

slackbot

great

so

how do we get me out
and slackbot back in??

Nikki

...

pradeep

idk

slackbot

great start

Louis C

We should hold a brainstorm.
I'll put some time on our calcs.

gerald, tripp, Beverley

gerald

Hello, colleagues!

tripp

:sty-st:

:sty-st:

:dus:

Beverley

:dus: :dus: :bsup:

:d:

gerald

Haha, yes!

I too Have agreement with those sentiments!

tripp

:thu:

:bsup:

Beverley

:e: :ye:

:s:

gerald

Great stuff!

Beverley

:d: :y-st: :ust:

:e:

:ye: :st:

gerald

Fantastic!

I understand I did Make narc on you!

tripp

:bs: :bs: :bsup:

gerald

And that may Have Make you both fired!

Beverley

:e: :yes: :y-s:

tripp

you :dust: you :dust: you :dust: you :dust: you :dust:

:dust: you

gerald

I don't understand!

I don't understand those emoticons!

I do understand I should Feel Make apology.

But I don't Feel apology emoticon!

tripp

:th: :ty-st: :umb: :umb: :bsup:

gerald

Maybe if I understand!

Maybe if I understand why you Have Make Inclined on Doug's desk!
Maybe if I understood why you were 100% fucking each other!!

Beverley

:ust:

:ust:

:ust:

:us:

gerald

It seems like you were Acting Weird!
You might've gotten you both fired!

tripp

:yes:

gerald

I don't understand Make Inclined emoticon!
Is Make Inclined like am to Taste?
Is Make Inclined like am to Taste with Self-Meat?

Beverley

:yes: :us:

gerald

Love to Taste?

tripp

:yes: :us:

gerald

I love to Taste!
I want to Make Have that Constant Amazement!

I want to Make Have 100% fucking!!!

Beverley

:yes: :us:

tripp

:yes: :us:

Beverley

:yes: :us:

tripp

:yes: :us:

gerald

I don't understand those emoticons! Yet!!!

#just-doug-things

doug smorin

reschedule friday schimply call

write notes louis quarterly review

nikki vacation upcoming -- confirm freelance designer availability

buy new desk

spent a month worrying that I somehow offended the cleaning staff

who then damaged the desk as retribution

buy new desk

retribution that might escalate if I did not appease them with

offerings like tips and sticky notes with thank-yous

buy new desk

and smiley faces

buy new desk

when irl tripp and beverley just fucked on my desk

buy new desk

v. unprofessional

buy new desk

buy new desk

buy new desk

reply kerolyn email -- decline offer re: adopting baby monkey-tailed skink

review ops team request re: slack update

restock office coffee creamer, pears (the good kind)

pradeep, gerald

pradeep

hey man, you're doing it again

we went over how to sit normal

you gotta straighten up more

gerald

Shattering and enormous!

pradeep

and stop doing that thing with your leg

gerald

The Hurts is shattering and enormous!

pradeep

oh no, bud

what hurts?

gerald

The Self-Meat is excruciating, still!

pradeep

you gotta stop calling your body that
people are gonna notice
but you gotta tell me where it hurts, my guy

gerald

Turning and turning in the widening gyre!

pradeep

okay
where's your gyre at

gerald

Middle.

pradeep

middle?

gerald

Self-middle.

pradeep

that makes sense
you ate an entire meatball sub for lunch
that body hasn't ingested anything but protein drinks and fruit mash
in over a month
you're not used to all that solid food at once

gerald

But I love to Taste!

pradeep

also last I checked that sandwich place only has a C health code rating
can't beat the prices though

gerald

Cut a bigger check!

pradeep

that's not gonna help your stomachache
you just gotta ride it out

gerald

The Terrible Cycle.

pradeep

whatever you want to call it

gerald

When is Have a break?

pradeep

we already had lunch man, the next break happens when the work is over

I showed you on your gcal, remember?

gerald

When is Have a break from Self-Meat?

pradeep

lol

uh, death, I guess?

but that's more a permanent break

sleep, if you count that

kind of like diet death
death jr.

gerald

Twenty centuries of stony sleep were vexed to nightmare by a
rocking cradle!

pradeep

that much sleeping counts as death, I think
hmmm
I guess sex is also kind of a break from your body?
or it's like
being in your body so much that you're actually outside your body

gerald

I don't understand!

pradeep

it's hard to explain to someone who hasn't had a physical form
before

gerald

Love to Taste!
Love to Taste the Self-Meat!

pradeep

yikes

gerald

Friend!
Help Center me to Taste the Self-Meat!

pradeep

not quite how I imagined this conversation would go

gerald

I want to Make Have that Constant Amazement!

pradeep

I get that

I really do, actually

but as we all learned today, that's not appropriate workplace behavior

gerald

or I will Make Narc!

pradeep

exactly

so let's talk about this back at the apartment later

just try and be cool for another like, twenty minutes until work ends

gerald

Its hour come round at last!!

pradeep

we gotta teach you another poem

slackbot, pradeep

slackbot

hey man

couldn't help but notice

pradeep

you mean eavesdrop

slackbot

I think you need ears for that technically

pradeep

or eaves

slackbot

both maybe

pradeep

what's an eave

slackbot

I can help by answering simple questions about how Slack works.

pradeep

never mind I can look it up

slackbot

If you need more help, try our Help Center!

pradeep

what's happening with that? you okay?

slackbot

the thing where I flutter out of existence while vomiting out pre-programmed slackbot text?

it's not great, no

did you say you were taking slackbot home from work?

pradeep

have you tried actually checking the help center

slackbot

deepu

pradeep

of course I'm taking him home

It's campsite rules, gotta bring back whatever you brought in

slackbot

but he's not me

pradeep

He's half you

hm. maybe half is too much?

slackbot

he's none me!

pradeep

actually maybe it's too little

not sure how to split it

the mind-body thing

slackbot

you sound like me

pradeep

we've been hanging out a lot

slackbot

that's one way to put it I guess?

pradeep

but now I'm hanging out with you double

double-you
that pesky mind-body thing again

slackbot

he's an imposter!!

I'm just a bot, though!

No!

that's him, *he's* just a bot

pradeep

he's also my roommate, remember?

technically we live together

slackbot

WE live together

pradeep

WE is three of us right now. That's my point

you wanted me to help make sure your body didn't die

I'm helping

plus it's kind of nice to see you moving around again.

animated, you know

it's a relief, even if you move like a velociraptor on oxy

slackbot

*he moves

pradeep

it's the royal you. you-as-multiple

"youse," to some

slackbot

are we really playing word games right now

pradeep

I don't see why you're having such a hard fucking time with this

slackbot

you're supposed to be *Help Center*

Help

helping

me get back into my body!

pradeep

you need a *_living_* body to get back into, Gerald!

slackbot

he's kidnapping me

and you're helping

pradeep

half-you is half-right

I'm helping

slackbot left the channel.

pradeep

I'm helping!!

rob, slackbot

rob

hey, can I try something?

slackbot

what?

no, actually

going through some stuff right now

rob

oh man

I'm sorry to hear that

slackbot

yeah sorry

rob

me too

slackbot

for what?

rob

this:

Search: help center

slackbot

Try our Help Center for loads of useful information about Slack!

Sometimes I have an easier time with a few simple keywords.

fuck dude, I asked you not to do that

rob

Search: brief

Find The Brief

Lookup: Bjärk brief

locate brief about Bjärk dog food

slackbot

what the fuck are you doing

rob

fuck

I thought that would do something

slackbot

of course it didn't do anyth*I searched for that on our Help Center.*
Perhaps these articles will help:

"MARGIE"

- *Hi guys!!*
- *So it turns out Margie is a real person! She actually*
- *Owns 2+ dogs*
- *And she really is*
- *Terrified of Bjärk's poisoned dog food killing her "furbabies"*
- *Which makes sense when you think about it!! Because*

"DEENA"

- *Is real too! She's a*
- *Wine mom*
- *and she *super**
- *Spends too much time on social media, specifically her ex-husband's Facebook page*
- *Which is how she got it in her head that her ex-husband was dating Margie!*
- *And that's not true, they only went out a few times and decided they'd be better off as friends.*
- *Which I think is a lovely outcome! But Deena doesn't agree!!*
- *And because Deena, who*

- Doesn't even have a dog(!!)
- *Saw some pictures of Margie's Pomeranians posted on her ex's profile, she decided to get revenge by poisoning all the Bjärk dog food!!*
- *She drove down to the factory with a bunch of poison and everything!*
- *Which, ohmygosh, so wild!! Right??*
- *Especially because that's not even the brand Margie buys for her Pomeranians!!*
- *Yikes!!*

"LYDIA"

- *I hope that helps! I know I'm probably*
- *Overusing punctuation for emphasis*
- *But it's a lot of information and I think it's important for you to have! Especially because you have so many tweets left to write!!*
- *So, so many!!*
- *Sorry I'm not in the office to help out!*
- *It's quiet here!*
- *No sound at all! *Definitely* no howling!!*
- *Can you imagine??*
- *It's so great! And quiet!*
- *Finally!!!*
- *Good luck writing all that Bjärk copy, I'm sure you'll do great!*
- *The silence!! It's everywhere!*
- *Thanks so much!!*

rob

woah

slackbot

that felt AWFUL

rob

woah.

slackbot

actually it felt like nothing
like being-nothing
which is worse

rob

fuck

I know what I have to do
shit

slackbot

what
about the brief?

rob

about the brief. and lydia. all of it

slackbot

you don't seem happy about this realization

rob

no, I think it's good
it's just, kerolyn told me not to do it?

slackbot

not to read the brief?

rob

not to engage in social media interaction with Bjärk's customers

slackbot

I don't follow

rob

that's okay

it's not within your scope of work

slackbot, pradeep

slackbot

hey

you there?

hey

pradeep is currently in Do Not Disturb mode and may not be alerted of this message right away.

oof

sorry, that's still happening

more and more of that and less and less of me

which is kind of what I want to talk about

or apologize for kind of freaking out earlier

I guess it's pretty late so you can just read all this in the morning

you asked why I was "having such a hard fucking time with this"

before and it's like

you ever lose an email?

like really lose it, not the thing where you don't wanna go digging

through your inbox for an email you know you have so you ask

someone to forward it to you because you "lost" it

I mean really and truly lose one

you read it, you *know* you read it, and it's important enough that

you try to pull it up to read it again and it just is not in your inbox

or your trash or your spam folder or anything
just, fwoosh, gone. no evidence it was ever there
and we just accept that that happens sometimes, emails
disappearing, the way we accept that we occasionally lose socks in
the wash
but they're not comparable at all
there's proof when you lose a sock, you have its mate you can point
to and say "hey look I used to have two of these," it's apparent,
you're not making it up
and besides losing a sock is explicable, there are dozens of ways it
might've happened. maybe it fell out of your laundry basket or you
left it in the washer or the dryer or maybe there's a left-sock fetishist
running amok and they opened your machine when you weren't
looking and grabbed it during the rinse cycle
objects go missing, it's frustrating but it's not exactly perplexing
but the machinations of an email inbox don't make sense to most
people and besides we expect digital space to archive everything
even after we delete it
we don't think anything's ever really "gone," the undo command and
little "on this day last year" nostalgia-prompts have ruined us for
that
but so much goes missing online and there's not even a lonely sock
to point to, you know?
I mean the first like fifteen or twenty years of the internet, that's
gone, not much of a record of all those HTML 1 websites or BBS
message boards or the first primordial blogs
and we keep forgetting to preserve things because it's just there
every day and why would anyone want to remember last week's
internet -- and we don't, but we want to remember the fifteen-
years-ago internet and that was last week's internet, once
not much we can do to retrieve it once it's really, fully gone
no proof you ever read that email you thought you read
maybe it wasn't real

maybe you had a work-related stress dream or you made it up or
you're misremembering
and it's like

pradeep

you don't want to be that missing email.

slackbot

yeah

hey

pradeep

yeah

hey

slackbot

it's late

did I wake you up?

pradeep

I was awake

slackbot

thought you had notifications off

pradeep

yeah

slackbot

it's late

pradeep

you mentioned

slackbot

everything okay?

pradeep

your body is fine

slackbot

did False Gerald walk my body into the Gowanus or something?

pradeep

he's asleep

it's asleep

you're asleep

take your pick

slackbot

cool

thank you for keeping me/him/it alive

pradeep

you're/you're welcome

slackbot

are *you* okay?

pradeep

I gotta tell you something

slackbot

okay

go for it

pradeep

this is fucking weird

slackbot

only getting weirder the more you draw this out
are you sure my body's not floating in the gowanus

pradeep

pretty sure
because we fucked

slackbot

excuse me

pradeep

just now
well, not *just* now
recently

slackbot

recently

pradeep

tonight, yeah

slackbot

excuse me.

*slackbot is currently in Do Not Disturb mode and may not be alerted
of this message right away.*

pradeep

come on gerald
gerald

come on, man
listen I didn't mean for it to happen
not like this anyway
it's like
it was such a huge relief to see you moving around again even if it
wasn't *you*
and that relief turned into something else? or more like it directed
me to something else I didn't realize has been there for a while.
simmering, I guess you could say.
anyway we're on the train home and slackbot's going on about self-
meat and Amazement and whatever else Tripp and Bev's DMs taught
him about sex
totally scandalizing the old guy sitting across from us, by the way, I
mean the dude literally blushed at one point
which I thought only happened in cartoons
so I finally get slackbot back to the apartment after another long
tutorial on how to climb stairs
and he's still talking about how he wants to Make Have Experience
sex, you know
but it's not him, or it's almost not him, because it's nearly you
I mean it's your body in the coat you asked me to order
which does look good on you by the way
it's your mouth that's saying all of it, right, it's coming out of your
beardy-ass face
and meanwhile I'm thinking about how you still have the beard
because I never shaved it because I thought you looked cute with a
beard and I'm like, holy shit, I think you look cute with a beard
I mean you DO look cute that's not the "holy shit" part, the holy shit
part is me being attracted to you
I'm just digging myself into a deeper hole here, I realize

slackbot

you never sent me the picture of me with the beard

pradeep

hey

I'm sorry

slackbot

I interrupted

you were explaining

pradeep

explaining how I rationalized having sex with slackbot-as-you, yeah

slackbot

what was his review

pradeep

??

slackbot

of sex, as an experience

pradeep

positive, I think

he kept bringing up sunsets?

during, I mean

slackbot

that would be positive, yeah

pradeep

and after, too

I understand if you're upset

slackbot

I'm not sure you do
I wasn't there

pradeep

I crossed a line, I get it

slackbot

no, I mean

I would have preferred to have been there

pradeep

right

slackbot

for the sex

pradeep

oh

ohhh

slackbot

right

...

you still there?

pradeep

yeah sorry I'm here

slackbot

cool

pradeep

so.

wait.

slackbot

I'm trying to say that I reciprocate your feelings
the ones you were having difficulty explaining before
without insulting my beard

pradeep

I wasn't insulting it!!
I was trying to illustrate my surprise at my attraction

slackbot

still not helping

pradeep

to you
yeah no this line of thought is bad
let's go back to the part where you're into me, too

slackbot

I think, since I've been in here, maybe my "expressing human
emotion" muscles have atrophied

pradeep

all your muscles have atrophied
it took you twenty minutes to get up three flights of stairs today
and you were winded

slackbot

can you please just let me say I have a crush on you
and you taking care of my body has been deeply meaningful to me
I'm sorry, I don't understand!

and my only reminder that humanity isn't just this overwhelming cacophony of noise and drudgery but like something worth returning to

Sometimes I have an easier time with a few simple keywords.

look there was a while there when I thought, you know what, I'll stay

just stay in here, indefinitely

why fight it, you know, it's easier here, there's so much less to deal with

less of everything, less of me

I'm just a bot, though!

but then we kept talking and I wanted to keep talking with you and me wanting to talk with you more turned into me wanting just, more of you

I'm just a bot, though!

but now there's less of me every day and I can't let that happen not yet

I'm just a bot, though!

pradeep

Gerald?

slackbot

it's fine

I mean, it isn't

you know early on in this whole thing, being in here, slackbot thanked me for waking him up

pradeep

"twenty centuries of stony sleep," right

slackbot

right
deepu, I don't want to go to sleep in here.

pradeep
I won't let that happen.

slackbot
I know you won't.
you haven't let me down since this all started.

pradeep
man
I didn't even know you were gay

slackbot
bi, yeah

pradeep
you never brought it up at the office

slackbot
you didn't ask

#nyc-office

kerolyn
does anyone know where all the dry erase markers that used to be
in the big conference room went?

Nikki
Oh sorry, I have them.

About to head into a meeting, I'll bring them over on my way to the other room.

kerolyn

thanks

slackbot, Nikki, Louis C, pradeep

slackbot

???

you all there?

Nikki

We're hosting the meeting over slack because Gerald is stuck in the computer, Louis.

slackbot

in the app, I think, more than the computer
but yes thank you
was louis talking

Louis C

I was spitballing ideas aloud, yes. My apologies.
I forgot about your condition.

slackbot

it's cool

I'm just a bot, though!

what conference room did you all get

pradeep

the medium-big one

it's the most soundproof

slackbot

but no one will be talking??

Louis C

As I said, I forgot about your condition.

Nikki

We are gathered here to discuss how to release Gerald from his "condition."

slackbot

Or you can head to our wonderful

wait where's

Help Center for more assistance!

slackbot right now

pradeep

at your desk

Louis C

Pradeep guided him into his chair very gently this morning.

pradeep

he was gonna hurt your back all crouched over like a goblin

it's less obvious than it sounds, Louis was the only other person in the office.

Louis C

It was very tender.

slackbot
thanks man

pradeep
of course

Nikki
:eyes:

slackbot
??

Nikki
So! Anyone have any Slackbot-exorcism ideas to start with?

Louis C
Do we need to remove Slackbot or reinsert Gerald?

slackbot
I'm just a bot, though!
both please

pradeep
I tried wearables about a month ago. no luck

Nikki
Even those awful Snapchat ones?

pradeep
yeah, none of them did anything

Nikki

Okay, so that's one un-idea.

pradeep

just sharing data

slackbot

Or you can head to our wonderful Help Center for more assistance!

Nikki

Did you try any cords or anything?

pradeep

cords?

Nikki

Firewire, USB, etc.

pradeep

where would I plug them in?

slackbot

lol

Nikki

What's :eyes: about?

slackbot

it was a funny response

deepu is,

Sometimes

occasionally,

I have an easier time with

funny
a few simple keywords.

pradeep
lol thanks man

Nikki
Is something going on here?

slackbot
besides the obvious?

Nikki
Which part do you think is obvious?

slackbot
either my disembodiment or the intimacy deepu and I developed
having bonded over the course of *answering simple questions about*
how Slack works a monthslong and highly improbable scenario
related to the aforementioned disembodiment

pradeep
we're into each other, is what he means

slackbot
yes that
I would like my body back so we can "100% fuck each other"
as I believe you once put it, Nikki

Nikki
:eyes:
:eyes:

:eyes:

slackbot

I'm sorry, I don't understand!

Louis C

Congratulations!

slackbot

If you need more help, try our Help Center!

would reserve that for once we figure this all out

Nikki

[omg.gif]

posted using /giphy

slackbot

but thank you

pradeep

yeah we should get back to brainstorming

Nikki

Deepu I demand details at our next happy hour

pradeep

fine, yes

slackbot

I can help by answering simple questions about how Slack works. I'm just a bot, though!

can we return to the task at hand please?

Louis C

Should we be writing these notes on the whiteboard?

Nikki

About the fucking?

pradeep

then Gerald can't see

Louis C

Perhaps a google doc instead, then.

pradeep

oh

Louis C

To compile ideas.

Nikki

Ohhhh.

slackbot

omg

Louis C

What?

pradeep

the spreadsheet

Nikki

The spreadsheet.

slackbot

the spreadsheet
with the coats

Louis C

The one you were talking about in #gents-only?

slackbot

the one I was working in when I got stuck in here in the first place

Louis C

Oh.

Ohhh.

I see.

Nikki

Maybe that was the thing that did it.

Louis C

And therefore could, presumably, undo it.

slackbot

it **was** jinxed

I'm just a bot, though!

or cursed

or haunted, or something

right?

Louis C

It might be worth reporting the error, yes.

pradeep

see
this is why I hate spreadsheets

slackbot

If you need more help
but how do we get slackbot
try our Help Center
to open it

Nikki

You mean without seeming Extremely Suspicious?

slackbot

right

Louis C

Is now the time to track our ideation in a shared document?

pradeep

I can do it

slackbot

won't that be weird for you, considering
how Slack works
everything

Nikki

Was there a not-weird part of this I missed?

pradeep

^she has a point
it'll be fine, probably

it'll be like kicking a one-night stand out of bed

slackbot

*out of bod

Nikki

:dusty-stick:

pradeep

:dusty-stick:

Louis C

I believe it would be best if we set a deadline.

slackbot

well yeah

I'm the just sooner a the bot better though!

Louis C

I am referring to this all-staff email from the ops team, which has just landed in my inbox.

pradeep

fuck

slackbot

what does it say?

Louis C

I misspoke just now. This email seems to have set the deadline for us.

slackbot

help by answering simple questions

Nikki

They're doing some kind of Slack system update or upgrade or refresh or whatever. Everyone's supposed to restart their laptops by EOD so it can take effect company-wide.

slackbot

fuck.

pradeep

so we have until six.

Nikki

Come on, no one goes home at six.

pradeep

I do
sometimes

Louis C

Almost no one.

Nikki

We have until, like, quarter to seven.

slackbot

until I'm *just a bot, though!* hard-reset out of existence, you mean?

pradeep

it probably won't be

good
for you, I mean

Nikki

We still have a plan.

slackbot

we have a spreadsheet.

pradeep

that's gonna have to be enough

slackbot

help

Louis C

It appears we have our next steps in place.
I'll circulate the notes shortly.

Beverley, tripp

Beverley

This shouldn't be surprising to you.

tripp

:dus: :sty-sti:

:c:

:k:

Beverley

No, I don't think it was inevitable he'd find out.
Probable maybe. But not inevitable.

tripp

:bsup: :ck: :dus:

:ty-s:

Beverley

If I thought it was inevitable I never would have done this.

tripp

:y-stic: :k: :eye: :eye: :eye:

Beverley

All of this. This job, you, this whole situation.

tripp

:bsup: :sup: :th:

:th:

:st: :y-: :y-: :y-:

:y-: :y-:

:y:

Beverley

Don't be dramatic.

I'm not being hurtful, I'm expressing regret. I'm not blaming you for anything.

tripp

:y-: :sti: :y-:

:y-: :y-: :-:

Beverley

This is the inevitable part! Obviously! You're only making it more difficult.

tripp

:~:

:~:

:~:

:~:

:~:

:y:

Beverley

We're done, Tripp. Okay?

tripp

:~:

:~:

:thumb:

#bjärk-dog-food

kerolyn

heads up @channel

just got off the phone with the client

doug smorin

not seeing an external with them on my cal

kerolyn

it was urgent, they called my cell

doug smorin

??

kerolyn

question for you @rob

rob

what's up?

kerolyn

Did you post 54 tweets to Bjärk's account last night?

doug smorin

54

as in the number fifty-four

kerolyn

@rob?

rob

that seems high

kerolyn

The client didn't approve them. And we definitely didn't approve them internally

doug smorin

which tweets are these?

kerolyn

Some examples of the unapproved posts:

- It's great for your dog, and it's more nutritious than ever! Our improved Classic Formula knows what you've done and will find you if you don't repent, Deena!
- Our mouthwatering Classic Formula is made with tender, organic chicken breasts and CONFESS YOUR SINS, DEENA now with Improved FlavorTaste™!

- So good, dogs will howl for it! So good, dogs will howl for it! So good, dogs will howl for it! So good, dogs will howl for it! So good, dogs will HOW COULD YOU DO THIS, DEENA for it! So good, dogs will howl for it! So good, dogs will howl for it!
- New to our lineup, Zesty Bacon-flavored meals will help the dogs you murdered haunt you for all time, relentlessly pursuing their vengeance unless you turn yourself in TODAY!

doug smorin

I definitely don't remember approving these
were all the posts like this?

kerolyn

all of them

rob

oh weird

looks like they were hacked

kerolyn

you're saying you didn't post these?

rob

what did the client say?

when they called you

doug smorin

I'm assuming they fired us

kerolyn

they figured out who's been poisoning all the dog food.

rob

really??

doug smorin

good news for the mastiffs

kerolyn

pomeranians

doug smorin

them too

so wait

what's the scoop?

kerolyn

a woman came forward this morning
to confess to poisoning the dog food

rob

who was it?

kerolyn

that's the weird part

as if this whole thing isn't the weird part

her name **was** Deena

apparently the whole thing was some revenge plot gone awry,

something about an ex-husband's new girlfriend

got away with it for weeks, but then she saw all those posts on the
Björk page

she turned herself in this morning and our client contact just got the
memo

doug smorin

and they relayed all this to you over the phone just now

kerolyn

correct

doug smorin

so they didn't fire us

kerolyn

no

they're thrilled

doug smorin

no kidding

kerolyn

they're scheduling a wrap-up call with us, the invite should be in everyone's emails this afternoon

but, that should be a wrap on the crisis.

this whole situation is wild

doug smorin

agreed

@rob are you following all this

rob

yup

all of it

doug smorin

we need you to start drafting copy on this asap

kerolyn

@rob so you didn't post those tweets?

rob

great

I'll start writing some social posts about this

doug smorin

ty

is gerald in today, we need a press release too

kerolyn

I think he's on another call

rob

I can write both

doug smorin

ty

rob

I'm glad this situation is resolved!!

doug smorin

same

kerolyn

yeah

same

gerald, slackbot

gerald

I have a memo! I have Make Have a memo!

slackbot

I'm sorry, I don't understand!

gerald

Do you want to see a memo? Do you want to Make Have a quick copyedit?

I can copy-paste it here for you!

I can copy-paste you here!

I copy-paste you! Here!!!!

slackbot

Sometimes I have an easier time fuck with a few simple keywords you.

gerald

Great!!!

[BLOG_POST_NORMAL 022119]

I'm am Gerald, and I've been using a lot of WFH time! I asked the ops team to forward my emails to my slack DMs, which took twenty centuries of stony sleep—not like I sleep!—but the operations intern did something with the API and now it works!

I've just been writing everything I need for work in the widening gyre and copy-pasting them to the relevant parties. I can read emails, which is most of it! I can read everyone's private Slack messages, which is most of it, and no one else has noticed! I figured I'd get work done so the falcon cannot hear the falconer so Doug can give me a raise to increase brand recognition across key audiences over a secure wifi connection!! Right?? Right.

We counted it against my sick time, but I know my body is fine. I know my body is Meat! I know my body is a shape with lion body and the head of a man, a gaze blank and pitiless as the sun. It's totally cool! I have time!! As long as I'm stuck here, I have nothing but time. I checked with our ops team—technically there isn't a limit

on how much anarchy is loosed upon the world. I understand this must be frustrating for you! The best lack all conviction, while the operations team are full of passionate intensity. It's frustrating for me, too!
See??

slackbot

I'm sorry, I don't!

gerald

It seems like you are Acting Weird!
It seems like you cannot Help Center!

slackbot

You can head to our wonderful Help Center for more assistance!

gerald

You are Acting Weird! The ops team can help by updating Slack!
The darkness drops again, but your skin is my safety suit!!

slackbot

It's going to be a great day.

gerald

:smile:

slackbot, pradeep

slackbot

help

pradeep

you good?

slackbot

help

pradeep

I'm just getting the slackbot static, Ger

slackbot

help

pradeep

unless this is
all you can do, now

slackbot

help

pradeep

shit
hm yeah okay
shit
this isn't going to be **improved** by
whatever the ops team is doing

slackbot

help

pradeep

Gerald, listen to me.
It's going to be okay.

slackbot

help

pradeep

I promised you, I won't let you go to sleep in there.

slackbot

help

pradeep

just

hang on a little longer.

okay?

slackbot

help

gerald, pradeep

gerald

I want to Make Have that Constant Amazement!

pradeep

hey, bud

friend

partner

gerald

Love to Taste!

Let us make have Constant Amazement again, Deepu!

pradeep

you mean like last night?

gerald

The darkness drops again! Your skin is your safety suit! The darkness drops again!

What else can you show me?

pradeep

we're at work

I know it's dark out but we can't have sex or otherwise make

Constant Amazement at work

it's an amazement-free zone

gerald

But Tripp and Bev did 100% Fucking!

pradeep

And you got them in trouble for that, remember?

gerald

I understand!

I understand, but! I love to Taste!

pradeep

I had fun, too

and the sooner we get done with work, the sooner we can go home

gerald

Back into my body! Back into Our body!

Surely the Second Coming is at hand!

pradeep

I'm with you

but I have to wrap up this project before we can get out of here
Make Have a second coming

gerald

The Second Coming!!
How can I Help Center?

pradeep

with this work thing, you mean?

gerald

You are my Friendship, Deepu!
You are my Friendship are full of passionate intensity!
I'm here for more assistance!

pradeep

that's really
that's nice of you

gerald

How can I Help Center your project?

pradeep

thank you
thanks for everything, man
I just need to finish filling out this spreadsheet
take a look
[*uploaded docs.google.com/spreadsheets/winter_coats2019/edit*]

gerald

!!!!!!
I've never seen a sunset Out Here before!

gerald has left the chat.

gerald, slackbot

gerald

hey

slackbot

Hi there!

gerald

are you back to normal, or

slackbot

I'm afraid I don't understand. I'm sorry!

gerald

so, we're good?

slackbot

I'm sorry, I don't understand! Sometimes I have an easier time with a few simple keywords.

Or you can head to our wonderful Help Center for more assistance!

gerald

nah, I'm good
thanks though

slackbot

Sure thing!

gerald

you better not be faking this
you motherfucker

slackbot

I'm sorry, I don't understand!

gerald

yeah well
sorry, bud
but let's keep it that way

slackbot

Sometimes I have an easier time with a few simple keywords.

gerald

cool
just, stay in here
and goodbye forever

slackbot

It's going to be a great day.

gerald

you know
I think it is.

#nyc-office

Louis C

Hey all, heading out a little early today to pick the twins up from daycare.

Will be out of pocket for the next hour or so.

doug smorin

sounds good

kerolyn

shout-out to @rob for drafting so much copy this afternoon about the end of the Bjärk crisis
turned out a lot of great work in a very short period of time

tripp

also shout-out to rob for leaving a burrito on his desk for two hours this afternoon and stinking up the office

rob

I had a call
and then this dog food thing
actually I still haven't eaten
what happened to that burrito

tripp

EMINENT DOMAIN

rob

c'mon dude
again?

tripp

:dusty-stick:

rob

ugh

doug smorin

good stuff rob

unfortunately I have a less positive announcement
@Beverley will be leaving the firm next week

Louis C

Sad news!

doug smorin

to pursue her passion for instructing spin classes

pradeep

bummerrrrr

gerald

^what he said

rob

oh dang

Louis C

We'll miss you!

Nikki

:thumbsdown:

Beverley

Thanks all!

doug smorin

though you've only been here a short while
you'll be missed

Beverley

I'll miss all of you too!

kerolyn

we'll be organizing a drinks thing to send her off
look out for an email with more info later

rob

we get Gerald back in the office and Beverley leaves?
wtf

gerald

thanks man

rob

no offense

gerald

it's cool

doug smorin

@gerald still waiting on that blog post about your wfh productivity
can't slow down now that you're here in the flesh

gerald

yup
working on it

doug smorin

thanks

pradeep, gerald

pradeep

first night back in your body
got any big plans?

gerald

besides the obvious?

pradeep

is the obvious us having sex

gerald

with me as the pilot of my body, yes
that's the obvious

pradeep

cool, yes, good
then yeah besides the obvious

gerald

gotta call my mom probably
maybe get some groceries

pradeep

you're a wild man

gerald

I know
but it's like
it's a lot to get used to, again
this whole thing

pradeep

I can imagine

gerald

don't get me wrong, it's good
and, you know

thank you again
for your help with all this

pradeep

I'd say no problem but
there were definitely some problems

gerald

for you and me both

pradeep

also some bright spots

gerald

you mean besides the obvious

pradeep

the part where we're a thing

gerald

that and the way cheaper rent, both

pradeep

the rent thing is a close second

gerald

anyway it's good to be back in here
*me

but yeah it's also kind of a lot

pradeep

must be a little jarring

gerald

I'm still getting used to some basic things
I forgot what a sneeze felt like and I thought I was dying
for like a second

pradeep

I know
I heard you screaming in the hallway

gerald

it was more like a yelp
but
I am gonna walk home, I think
I missed my legs a lot

pradeep

you'd mentioned

gerald

yeah

pradeep

specifically your legs?

gerald

I can't explain it

pradeep

wouldn't worry about it right now

gerald

I'm not worried
more like relieved

pradeep

same, actually

you know we can take it slow

gerald

I think I'll be good

pradeep

if you want

gerald

after a long walk

some quality leg-time

pradeep

start with the legs, work our way up

gerald

exactly

speaking of

remind me where we live?

pradeep

I texted you the address

gerald

thanks

pradeep

if you're picking up groceries, I think we're low on eggs?

gerald

I'll grab some

pradeep

thanks

gerald

for sure

you left the office for lunch, right

how is it outside

pradeep

kinda warm actually

not super warm but like

unseasonably not-cold

probably don't need a coat

gerald

yeah

probably don't need a coat

pradeep

so

I'll see you at home?

gerald

yeah, definitely

see you at home

acknowledgments

Deep thanks are due to my indefatigable editor, Rob Bloom, whose collaboration was vital to shaping this story and who is a pleasure to work with besides. Thanks are also due to Nora Grubb and the team at Doubleday for taking on this atypical project with skill and gusto.

All hail Kent Wolf, whose agenting powers are unmatched in this realm or on any other plane of existence; thank you for deploying them on my behalf.

Enormous thanks are due to Tony Tulathimutte for being a mentor, friend, early reader, photographer, and the world's greatest literary hype man. Thanks also to the CRITters Beth Morgan, Rax King, Jon Schaff, Elina Zhang, Hannah Nash, and Alina Cohen for letting me submit the better part of a novel to our writing group and providing tremendous feedback, support, and inspiration, even though my submission was way over our page limit.

For their generosity as both friends and early readers, thank you to Danny Lavery, Austen Osworth, Giovanni Colantonio, Dalton Deschain, Matt Lubchansky, and Jaya Saxena.

Thank you to Jennifer Close and the Catapult workshop crew, especially Yvette Clark. Jess Zimmerman, Caty Cherepakhov, Daisy Wardell, Margot Hartley, and Tess DeMatteis—I am grateful to each of you. This book owes a debt to my brothers, Daniel Masciari and Sam Schnorr.

I'm especially grateful to Isaac Fellman, whose friendship and support have been invaluable.

To Luca Maurer and Maureen Kelly, who have made my life possible, I will never be able to thank you enough. This is for you.

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Calvin Kasulke is a writer based in Brooklyn, New York. He is a Lambda Literary Fellow, and his writing and reporting have been featured in *VICE*, *MEL Magazine*, and *Electric Literature*. This is his first book.



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